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Inter-Arab Affairs

Lebanese Radio Says Syrian President To Visit Cairo

NC1312171789 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1705 GMT 13 Dec 89

[Text] Within the framework of the Egyptian-Syrian rapprochement, whose signs appeared yesterday with the resumption of air traffic between the two countries following a suspension lasting 12 years, it was announced in Cairo today that Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad will visit Egypt on Monday in response to an invitation by his Egyptian counterpart Husni Mubarak.

Egypt, Syria, Libya Form 'Coordination Council'

JN1412073589 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0615 GMT 14 Dec 89

[Text] Al-Dammam, 14 Dec (WAKH)—Press reports here today said that current high-level contacts among Egypt, Libya, and Syria are under way to establish a three-way framework in the form of a joint political coordination council. This falls within efforts to unify Arab ranks and support the Arab option with a view to resolving Arab issues and confronting pressing challenges to the Arab region.

The Saudi newspaper AL-YAWM said today the political leaderships of the three countries, together with many Arab leaders, are of the opinion that rapidly moving developments in the world, especially events in Europe and U.S.-Soviet detente, make it certain that the Arab option in confronting fateful challenges is now more necessary than ever.

The newspaper said that over the next few weeks, the three capitals will see an exchange of visits by high ranking officials for detailed talks to finalize the coordination agreement on firm bases.

Palestinian Affairs

Egypt Consults PLO Before Replying to U.S.

PM1112163489 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 8 Dec 89 pp 1-2

[Report by Muhammad Sadiq: "Four Palestinian Principles for Dialogue with Israel; Egypt Consulted PLO Before Accepting Baker's points"]

[Excerpts] Cairo, Tunis, Washington—Middle East peace efforts were given a new boost when Washington received Egypt's positive response to the five points proposed by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker. Egyptian Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Dr 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid said that the Egyptian reply was sent after consultation with the PLO. He said that Egypt consulted with the PLO before officially announcing its acceptance of the Baker plan for a Palestinian-Israeli dialogue.

Egyptian Ambassador to the United States 'Abd-al-Ra'uf al-Ridi has stated that, following Egypt's response to "Baker's five points," it is now possible to hold a Palestinian-Israeli dialogue, which is the most important thing in the peace process and efforts to enhance that process. He added that "the important thing in the next phase is for it [the dialogue] to go ahead, because if it does it will be the first of its kind in the history of the Palestinian question."

In a statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT after his meeting with Baker before the U.S. Administration's announcement of Egypt's acceptance of Baker's points, Al-Ridi said that Baker expressed appreciation of President Mubarak's and Dr 'Abd-al-Majid's efforts, describing what has been achieved as a significant step, but adding that there is still a long way to go.

He said that Baker impressed upon him the importance of serious work, noting that the objective was serious work, not media gains. [passage omitted]

On the PLO's reply to Baker's points, he said: We have conveyed the PLO's answer to the Americans, to whom we also gave our own reply, which was made after consultating with the PLO.

He affirmed that the PLO was satisfied with the U.S. response, that the PLO has defined its positions, that the Americans have been informed of these positions, and that the PLO could now say that its principled positions were sound and unblemished.

He added: Meanwhile, Egypt is active, and its activity is being coordinated and discussed with the PLO, opening the way for Palestinian political action.

He confirmed that the PLO was satisfied with the situation, citing the meeting the day before yesterday between Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat and Egyptian Presidential Office Director for Political Affairs Dr Usamah al-Baz at Cairo airport, as well as his own meeting with Fatah Central Committee Member Khalid al-Hasan in Washington after the official U.S. announcement of the five points.

On the problem of forming the Palestinian delegation and the PLO's part in it, which is the third of Baker's five points officially announced the day before yesterday, he said: "This matter will be discussed in due course, perhaps at the tripartite U.S.-Egyptian-Israeli foreign ministers meeting or at earlier meetings." [passage omitted]

On the problem of the PLO's selection of the Palestinian delegation to the dialogue, he said: "It has not been solved yet. There will be numerous serious contacts on that matter at a later stage."

Meanwhile, a U.S. official has told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the U.S. Administration has given no guarantees to any side for acceptance of the Baker points and that these points have not been fundamentally changed or amended. [Passage omitted]

PLO Representative to Cairo Sa'id Kamal has stated that the PLO put forward the following four principles in its positive reply to Baker's basic plan conveyed to the United States through Egypt:

1. The PLO is ready for a dialogue between a delegation of its members, representing the Palestinian people inside and outside the occupied territory, and an Israeli delegation.

2. The agenda of the dialogue should be open, without preconditions. Each delegation should be able to raise whatever issues it wants, including elections in the occupied Palestinian territory and the 10 Egyptian points, in accordance with the U.S. statement of 16 September 1988 based on Security Council resolutions 242 and 338, the exchange of land for peace, the right of all peoples of the region to secure and recognized borders, and recognition of the Palestinian people's political rights.

3. The dialogue should be held under the supervision of the United Nations, Egypt, Sweden, and the five permanent members of the Security Council.

4. The dialogue should be a step paving the way for an international peace conference on the Middle East with the participation of the five permanent members of the Security Council.

Officials Comment on Dialogue With Washington

LD1412115689 Kuwait KUNA in English 0854 GMT 14 Dec 89

[Text] Kuwait, Dec 14 (KUNA)—A leader of a Palestinian group was quoted here Thursday as saying that all proposals being discussed now still are far from offering the legitimate rights of the Palestinians.

In an interview with AL-WATAN newspaper, Samir Gousha said the Palestinian-American dialogue will not realize any progress as long as Washington continues to deny the Palestinians their inalienable rights.

However, he said the results of the dialogue will be determined by the continued intifadah and Arab pressures on the American Adminstration.

Gousha's remarks were a direct rejection to Israel's proposal for holding elections in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip and the plan by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker which included ten points on an Israeli-Palestinian meeting in Egypt.

"Peace is still out of hand and will not be reached as long as the Palestinian people are denied their rights," Gousha told the paper.

Gousha is secretary general of the Popular Struggle Front, a small Palestinian faction not represented at the Palestine Liberation Organization and headquartered in Syria.

In another interview with AL-ANBA' newspaper, member of the PLO's Executive Committee Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh said that the PLO "has no linkage with the reply given to the United States by Egypt on the Baker plan.

He pointed out that the Executive Committee took (?action) on the proposals and relayed it to the United States and other Arab and foreign countries in addition to the permanent members of the United Nations Security Council.

'Abd-Rabbuh, who led the Palestinian side in talks with Washington, said the question of Palestinian representation is not a "trade-in" matter with anything and the Palestinians will not allow any party to represent them except the PLO.

The uprising, he added, has proved that there could be no separation between the Palestinians and the PLO.

Kuwaiti Paper Gives Names of Delegates to Talks

JN1312194189 Kuwait AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM in Arabic 12 Dec 89 p 1

[Text] Tunis—A ranking Palestinian official has told AL-RA'Y-AL-'AMM that intensive secret contacts are now under way between Israel, Egypt, the United States, and the PLO to prepare the list of the Palestinian delegation to the negotiations with Israel on elections in the occupied territory. The official, who asked to remain anonymous, said that the secret contacts that began a few days ago have made long and important strides in crystallizing and preparing the list of Palestinian names.

The Palestinian official noted that Faysal al-Husayni will lead the Palestinian delegation which will be made up of 10 to 12 members, including 6 from the West Bank, 4 from Gaza, and 2 deportees. He added that an agreement has been reached among the various parties on the West Bank and Gaza members; however, there are differences with regard to the members from the deportees.

The Palestinian official said that this is how the Palestinian delegation from the West Bank shapes up:
—Faysal al-Husayni will lead the delegation.
—Radwan Abu-'Ayyash, Sari Nusaybah, Jamil al-Tarifi, Hanna Sinyurah, and Sa'id Kan'an from the West Bank.
—Fayiz Abu-Rahmah, Mansur al-Shawwa, As'ad al-Saftawi, and a representative of the Hamas Movement from Gaza.

The official said that the American ambassador to Tunis informed Palestine Ambassador Hakam Bal'awi recently that Israel had agreed on this so the Hamas Movement will not obstruct the negotiations. Shaykh Ahmad Yasin, leader of the Hamas Movement, has been nominated to join the delegation.

With regard to the two members from among the deportees, Israel has rejected the participation of Muhammad Milhim and Akram Haniyah on the pretext that they are official members of the PLO leadership. Israel proposed

the participation of Dr Taysir al-'Aruri from Ramallah who was deported to France 3 months ago.

Approval of Delegates Denied

JN1312205889 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1742 GMT 13 Dec 89

[Text] Baghdad, 13 Dec (WAKH)—Responsible Palestinian sources denied here today that the PLO has approved or named the Palestinian delegation to hold a dialogue with Israel once this dialogue is decided according to U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's plan.

Responding to recent news media reports, these sources stressed that the PLO will not name its delegation before an agreement is reached on the principles of the dialogue as summed up in the Palestinian reply to James Baker's plan.

These sources emphasized to the WAKH correspondent that the PLO cannot relinquish its right to choose the negotiating delegation as well as its right to declare it in a manner emphasizing that the delegation represents the PLO in its capacity as the Palestinian Arab people's sole legitimate representative.

These sources said that the issue of authorizing Egypt or any other party, as recently reported by the press, is absolutely outside the Palestinian leadership's thinking. They said all that has been published in this regard is baseless.

In his speeches over the past few days on the second anniversary of the intifadah, Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat has reiterated that the PLO is being exposed to intensive Arab and foreign pressure to make it give up its stance. However, the Palestinian leader, who did not name the parties exerting the pressure, reaffirmed that the Palestinians will resist them and will henceforth neither knuckle under nor relinquish their rights.

Leadership Condemns Clashes in South Lebanon

NC1412124889 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1225 GMT 14 Dec 89

[Text] Tunis, 14 Dec (MENA)—The Palestinian leadership has condemned the clashes which broke out between Syrian intelligence personnel and an unidentified group at the entrance to Sidon.

In a statement issued here today, the Palestinian leadership said it has ordered an immediate investigation into the incident in cooperation with key figures in Sidon and the nationalist movement and the Syrian forces in the area to identify the perpetrators, because such an incident at such a time only benefits the common enemy.

The Palestinian leadership calls for caution and vigilance against attempts to create sedition in Sidon, attempts which are aimed against the Palestinian presence and the Lebanese nationalists in this sensitive area along the confrontation front against Israel. Israel, the Palestinian leadership added, is currently massing military troops in the border zone and is conducting daily bombardments of the southern areas to prepare for a military action against the Palestinian presence and Lebanese nationalists in the south.

PLO Has No Objection to Israel-USSR Ties

TA1312083489 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 13 Dec 89 p 12

[Report on interview with Khalid al-Hasan, chairman of PLO's Foreign Relations Committee, by Walter Ruby on 11 December in New York]

[Text] New York—The PLO does not object to the establishment of diplomatic relations between Israel and the Soviet Union and believes the end of the Cold War will bring peace to the Middle East, a senior PLO official said here on Monday.

In an interview with THE JERUSALEM POST, Khalid al-Hasan, the chairman of the PLO's Foreign Relations Committee and the organization's chief ideologist, also expressed appreciation for the U.S. administration's peacemaking efforts remarking, "Clearly, the U.S. is tired of the (Middle East) conflict."

Al-Hasan added, "I think (Secretary of State) Baker has done something practical by insisting on a process for peace, and by picking out the elections—which, I believe, was originally an American idea—as a starting point."

Al-Hasan, who also goes by the nom de guerre Abu-al-Sa'id, was a co-founder of Fatah together with Yasir 'Arafat, and is in the U.S. for private meetings, including some with American Jewish leaders he declined to name.

In the past he has been considered a hardliner. In the interview, indeed, he expressed support for the killing of alleged collaborators in the territories, saying that those executed by their fellow Palestinians have been "informers whose information leads to so many others being killed."

The PLO is not overly concerned by the Soviet Union's recent votes in the UN, such as its first time abstention in October on the annual resolution raising the status of "Palestine" to that of a non-member state.

"It is a new era," Al-Hasan said. "The Soviet Union has announced officially and publicly that it is changing from the policy of balance of power to a policy of balance of interests; from a policy that needs confrontation to one that needs coordination, agreement and mutual understanding. It also announced that it would split ideology from politics. When that happens, a lot of voting will change."

Al-Hasan went on: "We are not frustrated by this change. We are happy about it. The confrontation between the two superpowers kept the (Middle East) conflict

unsolved for 41 years. Now if they come to an understanding, it means that their confrontation—a major obstacle—doesn't exist any more."

Al-Hasan was optimistic about the anticipated talks in Washington between the foreign ministers of Egypt, Israel and the U.S. "I am hopeful these talks will end with Palestinian and Israeli delegations... sitting down to talk. It is understood in Baker's five points that Egypt will not represent the Palestinians, but will consult with the PLO. If as a result of those consultations, we agree on something, that means we are not out of it. We are not looking for a show of power. We are looking for substance."

Al-Hasan contended that "no one in the world could take seriously" Israel's demand for veto power over the eventual Palestinian delegation, and asked, "What is the point of Israel negotiating with non-PLO Palestinians who could not deliver?"

He added: "I don't think the U.S. has agreed to Israel's demand in this regard—or, for that matter, to the demands of the PLO. Baker has two very pragmatic aims: to have a meeting of the three foreign ministers in Washington, and to have this meeting end with a Palestinian-Israeli meeting in Cairo. That is what Baker's five points come down to. They are not really a peace process, but a peace ignition."

Al-Hasan sees some hard slogging ahead on the road to a peace agreement. "I remain optimistic, but I am not talking about a few days. Finally, after a considerable period, we will achieve peace."

'Arafat Comments on Formation of Support Front

JN0912054089 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1950 GMT 8 Dec 89

[Text] Baghdad, 8 Dec (INA)—Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat has paid tribute to Iraq's pioneering role under His Excellency President Saddam Husayn in supporting and backing the intifadah, which is being staged by the Palestinian Arab people to regain their legitimate rights and establish their independent state on their national soil.

In a speech delivered after the proclamation of the launching of the Popular Arab Front for Supporting the Valiant Palestinian Intifadah, 'Arafat said that this Baghdad event reflects Iraq's role in providing continuous and unlimited support for the people staging the intifadah. This event is actually a victory for the Palestinian stone, which moved the Palestinian revolution into a new militant phase in the confrontation with the Zionist entity, 'Arafat said.

Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat said that the formation of the Popular Arab Front is a real victory for the Palestinian intifadah in the occupied territories, as this event will place the legitimate Palestinian national struggle on the threshold of a new phase of struggle that will help the Palestinian people regain their rights and impose their free and independent will.

'Arafat added that the great scientific accomplishment scored by Iraq—namely, the launching of a satellite-carrier rocket system—restores to the Arab nation its confidence in the inevitability of victory over the forces that want to undermine its dignity and right to existence.

Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat called upon Iran to respond favorably to the international community's will regarding the need to implement UN Security Council Resolution 598 and effect a comprehensive and immediate exchange of prisoners of war to help achieve a just and durable peace.

'Arafat Addresses Intifadah Rally in Aden

JN1212193689 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 12 Dec 89

[Excerpts] Addressing 10,000 Yemeni and Palestinian citizens in Aden to celebrate the beginning of the 3d year of the intifadah, Brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], head of the state of Palestine, declared that the intifadah will continue strongly and vigorously until the Palestinian state is established and the Palestinian flag is hoisted over the minarets and walls of holy Jerusalem, capital of the independent state. Brother Abu-'Ammar hailed sisterly People's Democratic Republic of Yemen—president, party, government, and people—for their principled and committed support for the intifadah and the legitimate, just Palestinian struggle to restore the inalienable Palestinian rights. Brother Abu-'Ammar said our people will not forget the Yemeni people's solidarity with and defense of the [Palestinian] revolution. He said the Palestinian people's struggle relies on this sincere support, which constitutes a shield for it.

Brother Abu-'Ammar said that all the U.S. and Israeli weapons cannot halt the intifadah or undermine the will of a people who decided to live as a free and sovereign people over their land and who use stones and Molotov cocktails to fight all the Israeli authorities, their killings, and systematized terrorism. Therefore, he said, our people's intifadah is entering its 3d year strongly and confidently, although approximately 65,000 citizens have been detained, 53,000 wounded, and 1,000 martyred. Brother Abu-'Ammar added there will be no peace in the region unless the Palestine question is resolved, and there will be no solution other than the Arab solution, which is based on regaining the Palestinian people's rights, especially their right to self-determination, repatriation, and the establishment of their independent state with holy Jerusalem as its capital. He said: We are not fighting alone; you and all the Arab peoples and the world's free and peace-loving forces support us. Therefore, we must triumph, he stated. [passage omitted]

Brother president Abu-'Ammar arrived in Aden on 10 December accompanied by Brother 'Abbas Zaki, Fatah Central Committee member, to attend celebrations

marking the intifadah's 2d anniversary and to hold talks with brother officials in the Yemeni party and government on the latest developments in the Palestine question. [passage omitted]

PFLP-GC Leader Gives Address on Anniversary

JN0912185589 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1000 GMT 9 Dec 89

["A word of love and appreciation" by Ahmad Jibril, secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command, PFLP-GC, on the 2d anniversary of the Palestinian intifadah—live or recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. O our heroic Palestinian people, O our steadfast, militant, and struggling kinfolk in Palestine. O our people in holy Jerusalem, the first of the two qiblahs [direction muslims face during prayers]. O our people in Nabulus, Jabal al-Nar, the volcano of the revolution. O our people in Hebron and in Bethlehem, the birthplace of Christ. O our heroes in Bayt Sahur, the house of challenge and steadfastness. O our people in Tulkarm, Qalqiliyah, and Janin, the trinity of indignation. O our people in Nazareth, the Galilee, and the Triangle. O our people in proud Negev. O our people in Gaza, the symbol of heroism, sacrifice, and selfless struggle, the conqueror of the invaders and the destroyer of the Zionist intransigence and U.S. arrogance. O our people in Palestine, the whole of Palestine. [passage omitted]

Two years have passed in the life of your miraculous, blessed intifadah. You have indeed proved that you are the leaders of the struggle, the masters of the jihad. You have taught the occupiers lessons in steadfastness, resistance, and fighting. The occupier felt that 40 years of occupation had him in full control and that the Palestinian land and people had become his possession in which he could spread corruption and tyranny at will. The enemy thought that there were no more heroes in the Palestinian land and that there were no more heroes in the Arab and Islamic nations, and that these nations only produced capitulation and submission. Suddenly, the enemy found himself facing the bitter fact, the certain fate. The land shook under the enemy's feet and all its strategic and tactical plans went awry, and all its calculations and dreams were destroyed. [passage omitted]

Our kinfolk in blessed Palestine: As the intifadah intensified and its influence on the Zionist entity and institutions grew ever greater and the scope of its danger widened to further engulf the camp of the enemies, the enemy was dumbfounded into appealing for help. Its allies heeded the call and rallied from all corners in a desperate attempt to salvage the situation and ward off defeat. They have sharpened all their weapons, mobilized all their potential, devoted all their experience, and mustered all their resources in an attempt to ease the will settle for nothing less than the head of the intifadah; toward that end they have pursued two main routes:

First, through direct repression by the occupation army adopting new tactics in confronting the masses of the intifadah. In this context, General Yitzhaq Mordekhay was transferred from the southern region command to the command of the central region to direct the repression. The Zionist entity had staked high hopes on him and he has surpassed himself in this field. The enemy soldiers have been allowed to open fire on the demonstrators, crack down rabidly on our kinfolk in Bayt Sahur, and form regional defense units from among the settlers; they have intensified their feverish housebreaking and entering, as well as killing and apprehending strugglers.

Second, through political initiatives. Whereas the Zionist repressive machine undertook the task of carrying out the first part of the plan, the U.S. Administration took upon itself the implementation of the second part. It mobilized its resources and had its allies launch initiatives, convene conferences, and dispatch envoys and representatives in a rash of political initiatives that have only sought to undermine your intifadah and erode your determination. The political offensive is no less dangerous than the military one, especially since it is finding response from people who profess concern for the cause. They are now accommodating these diabolical projects and plans under the slogan of making political capital out of the intifadah. They are now gambling with it, placing their wagers on potential concessions by the U.S. Administration behind Shamir's plan and Mubarak's points. Now the U.S. Administration has come directly onto the stage through Baker's five points, having secured what concessions it could in the dialogue of Tunis. It went so far as to demand the head of the intifadah as a price for continuing the dialogue.

Brothers, heroes of the intifadah: They have relinquished our striving people's right to return and they want our people to stay forever refugees in their camps in exile. They even want the same fate for our people in Palestine—those who live in the valiant camps in Balatah, al-Shati', al-'Arrub, 'Askar, and al-Nusayrat and others. They want them to remain refugees on their land and thus rob our future generations of the opportunity to carry the banner of struggle forward and pursue the struggle toward return and liberation.

Brothers, heroes of the intifadah: We are going through a historic juncture in which the children of the glorious intifadah in Palestine fight for the aspirations of the generations of our nation across the Arab homeland. This ferment is bound to bear fruit. The bottom line of the slogans chanted by thousands of our youths at the beginning of the intifadah was the unconditional withdrawal of the Zionist enemy from the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. Instead of all the forces rallying around this slogan, and translating it on the ground, a string of daily concessions began to be made by those who struck an

our people. Their concessions will not come to an end with each new American demand or with every illusion offered by one of the countries cooperating with the United States.

Concessions are still being made despite the growing momentum of the intifadah. Nor are they likely to stop being made, given the arrogance and recalcitrance of the Zionist enemy. They are unashamedly calling it a Palestinian peace offensive that will serve to embarrass the enemy and expose it before public opinion. What is the use if I win the world and lose myself? Am I expected to concede land, sanctities, and history just to embarrass and win others to my side?

We therefore say to those who are panting after capitulationist solutions, political maneuvers, and demeaning concessions regardless of origin, designation, and hue: Have you not heard the words of God? Strongest among men in enmity to the believers wilt thou find the Jews. [Koranic verse] Have you not also heard God's words: O ye who believe! Take not for friends unbelievers rather than believers. [Koranic verse] These are words of the all-knowing God who created the Jews and Americans and knows their innermost selves. Listen to words of God about the Jews in the [passsage indistinct] Have they a share in dominion of power? Behold, they give not a farthing to their fellow-men. [Koranic verses] That is to say that if the Jews have a kingdom and enjoy power they will never concede any part of them. They will not even concede a farthing. If they will not yield an inch of Palestine, how do you expect them to give up Jerusalem, Hebron, Bethlehem, Gaza, and the rest of Palestine.

Brothers and sisters, our valiant Palestinian people. I wonder with absolute frankness: Is the PLO leadership serious about the slogan of independence it has adopted? Has the line taken by the PLO over the 2 years since the intifadah erupted pointed in that direction? I believe that if the efforts to realize this goal had been serious, clear foundations should have been laid for political action, particularly during these 2 years.

These foundations are:

First, rather than looking for means to destroy Palestinian national unity in the inside and the outside, a course of action should have been followed to consolidate it.

Second, rather than covering up for Arab regimes scheming against the Palestinian cause, they should have been exposed before their peoples.

Third, rather than covering up for the Camp David regime in Cairo and affording it a key and preeminent role, work should have been undertaken to create the right conditions to induce Egypt's extrication from Camp David and the removal of the Zionist flag from Cairo's sky.

Fourth, rather than adopting a posture of submission against the United States and its regional interests ought to have been promoted and pursued.

Fifth, a militant relationship should have been promoted with patriotic Arab regimes, primarily with Syria as well as with the Islamic Republic of Iran. [passage omitted]

Brothers, children in Palestine. I address myself to leaders of liberation movements around the world and say to them: The glorious intifadah of our people has entered its 3d year with heroism and courage. Under no circumstances should you remain silent while the United States backs the Zionist enemy. It does not figure that you supply the enemy with men under the slogan of human rights when the rights of our Palestinian human beings are unrecognized and trampled underfoot, and they are being killed, arrested, and humiliated. [passage omitted]

Salah Khalaf Addresses Intifadah Rally 10 Dec

JN1212195189 Kuwait AL-ANBA' in Arabic 10 Dec 89 p 6

[Report by Fatimah Mansur]

[Excerpt] Fatah Central Committee member Salah Khalaf, also known as Abu-Iyad, has announced that the PLO deals with the Baker plan according to one important principle: that the PLO is the party that forms the delegation that will hold talks with the Israeli Government's delegation to prepare for the convening of the international conference.

In a speech at a rally organized yesterday by the Palestine Embassy on the intifadah's 2d anniversary, Khalaf said that the PLO absolutely refuses to let anyone else represent it in any talks or speak on its behalf. He said the questions and answers exchanged between the United States and the PLO via various channels were "fruitless." He asserted that the PLO does not seek a solution connected with the Palestinian people's right to self-determination in the occupied territories.

Khalaf pointed out that the PLO recently received a document from the United States saying that the United States did not agree with the PLO that its role must be open. The document stated that the PLO's role must be "hidden."

Khalaf also referred to the Baker plan and said that it was meant to be vague. He also said he asked the PLO to deal with it. The PLO did and asked the United States four questions revolving around the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks: Does the United States understand that the PLO designates and announces the Palestinian delegation? Does the United States understand that the PLO rejects any veto on the steps it takes in this regard? Khalaf stated that the answers the PLO received from the United States do not show respect for the premises and principles on which the Palestinian-U.S. dialogue was based. He said: The

player and that, as is well known, the PLO is everything. Nonetheless, the United States at the same time asked the PLO to play an invisible role.

Abu-Iyad declared: They want us to play no role at all. They want us to accept the Baker plan; our role ends here and fraternal Egypt can represent us after that. The PLO tried to deal with this position with all available resources, but we met with the United States' insistence on giving the PLO no role at all. In this regard, we say: We have great respect for Egypt and all other Arab states, but we openly refuse to let any Arab state represent us. The PLO is the Palestinian people's sole legitimate representative. We are not taking a negative attitude.

Abu-Iyad confirmed the constant unity of the Palestinians' ranks, stressing that this unity constitutes the main weapon in the battle to achieve victory and the establishment of the Palestinian state. He said that the intifadah has confirmed to all conspirators that it will continue until victory, that it will not halt, and that its banner will remain hoisted in spite of their suffering. He pointed out that Palestinians are a genuine people and will not allow their revolution to suffer a setback once again. He said that this revolution cannot be separated from the intifadah and that the Palestinians are an indivisible people.

Abu-Iyad added: The Arabs in Fes [reference to Arab summit] disposed of the military option and approved the peace initiative. In spite of that, we continued to fight and will continue until we achieve victory, he stated. He also said that King Husayn's disengagement decision benefitted the Palestinians and prompted the PLO to issue its resolutions in Algiers.

He said: Most regional problems are on the way to being resolved. Therefore, we must seek a solution to our problems in the Arab region and thoroughly understand the international detente that now exists in order to use the opportunities afforded to our advantage. We work through our intifadah, through politics, and through armed struggle.

He asserted that the PLO is being pressured to accept any and everything. He said the PLO had accepted Resolution 242, which was a major step. He asked: What else do they want? He said this was what the international community wanted.

Abu-Iyad referred to the Palestinian people's suffering, which has been going on for years and on different levels, and said that, therefore, the PLO seeks a solution, but not just any solution. He asserted that there will be no "concession" from the Palestinian people, and that the Palestinian people in the occupied territories are enduring and are prepared to continue to endure suffering until the establishment of the Palestinian state.

Abu-Iyad said the PLO donates around $4.5 million to workers in the occupied territories. He urged further donations for the intifadah. He asserted that supporting the intifadah financially and politically is the decisive factor in the intifadah's continuation.

In his speech, Abu-Iyad touched on the phases that the PLO went through following the resolutions issued at the recent Palestine National Council session in Algiers. He said that 141 states recognized the state of Palestine and that the United States is blocking peace, the settlement of the Middle East question, and the right to self-determination. [passage omitted]

Algeria

Police, Demonstrators Clash in Sour El-Ghozlane

NC1312202289 Paris AFP in English 2001 GMT 13 Dec 89

[Text] Algiers, Dec 13 (AFP)—Police armed with tear gas fought stone-throwing demonstrators in almost two days of clashes in Sour El-Ghozlane, south of the Algerian capital Algiers, local residents said Wednesday.

The demonstrations were sparked by widepsread anger at delays in the distribution of state-subsidised apartments in the town, which has a population of around 40,000.

The sources, contacted by telephone, said the clashes lasted "36 hours non-stop" in Sour El-Ghozlane, 150 kms (93 miles) south of here and only ended at 4.00 p.m. (1500 GMT) Wednesday after an appeal from the local Moslem imam, or spiritual leader.

No injuries were reported, but several people were given medical treatment after inhaling the tear gas. A hotel on the city outskirts was damaged in the riots which shattered windows in the city buildings.

On Tuesday, city stores shut down and the local population blocked the main road in a demonstration to demand the release of nine people detained during a rally Monday.

The first demonstration was held to call for the quick allocation of state-subsidised apartments which according to the protesters had been "ready for months".

The nine were members of a delegation designated by the demonstrators to negotiate with local authorities.

The local sources said that the clashes ended after the imam announced over the mosque's loudspeaker that the authorities had promised to release the nine on Saturday.

The clashes were the latest in a series of riots over living conditions in the north African country, the latest taking place in an Algiers suburb in November. The country has also been hit by a wave of strikes in recent months.

Situation 'Returning to Normal'

LD1412090989 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 0600 GMT 14 Dec 89

[Text] It seems that the disturbances witnessed in Sour El-Ghozlane are over. Following 2 days of demonstrations, strikes, and disturbances, matters are now improving. We have learned that the issue of the release of the nine persons demanded by the demonstrators will take place next Saturday. We have also learned that the situation is returning to normal and calm and that antiriot units have started to withdraw from the streets of Sour El-Ghozlane.

FLN Central Committee To Meet 24, 25 December

LD1312121689 Algiers APS in English 1110 GMT 13 Dec 89

[Text] Algiers, 13 Dec 89 (APS)—The first session of the FLN [National Liberation Front] Party Central Committee will be held on December 24 and 25, a communique of the Party announced. The agenda of this session will include the adoption of internal regulations of the party and the Central Committee that have been amended on the basis of the new status and the election of the secretary general and the Political Bureau of the party, the communique pointed out.

Egypt

MENA Reports Arrival of Syrian Airlines Flight

NC1312181489 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1725 GMT 13 Dec 89

[Excerpts] Cairo, 13 Dec (MENA)—A Syrian Airlines flight arrived in Cairo this evening carrying Munir Jayrudi, Syrian assistant minister of transport for civil aviation affairs; Nabil Rif'at, assistant director of the Syrian Airlines company; a delegation of the Syrian Civil Aviation Authority; and a media delegation representing various journalistic establishments and SANA.

Egypt Air Chairman Engineer Muhammad Fahim Rayyan received the visitors at the airport and welcomed the Syrian brothers. [passage omitted]

Eng Rayyan announced he will dispatch envoys from Egypt Air to Damascus to reopen Egypt Air offices there. [passage omitted]

'Abd-al-Majid on Cooperation With Libya, Syria

NC1312153089 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1425 GMT 13 Dec 89

[Text] Cairo, 13 Dec (MENA)—Dr 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has stated that there will be meetings of Egyptian and Libyan ministers and experts in the future to complete discussions on development and bolstering Egyptian-Libyan cooperation.

Dr 'Abd-al-Majid added that at a meeting yesterday attended by the concerned ministers an Egyptian-Libyan working committee discussed ways of promoting Egyptian-Libyan ties in all fields. He said that the meeting was held in compliance with the Tobruk agreement of 17 October.

On another issue, the deputy prime minister and foreign minister described the resumption of air traffic between Egypt and Syria as a constructive and positive step that followed contacts between the leaders of the two countries. He said these contacts played the principal role in infusing an atmosphere formed by the strong bonds between the two countries and their peoples' desire to turn over a new leaf.

Dr 'Abd-al-Majid emphasized Egypt's concern to promote the peace process in order to attain a comprehensive and just peace in the region. He said that Egypt's primary objective is to achieve regional peace and stability.

AL-JUMHURIYAH on Thaw in Relations With Syria

JN1412114389 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 12 Dec 89 p 6

[Editorial: "Auspicious Beginning"]

[Text] Arab circles have welcomed the decision by President Husni Mubarak and Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad to restore air traffic between Cairo and Damascus as of today, a decision the two presidents made during a telephone conversation yesterday.

This step emphasizes the two presidents' eagerness to bolster Arab solidarity and clear the air of all transient differences by agreeing on major Arab goals and realizing them by coordinating efforts and preserving the right of each state to state its views and point out differences that can be settled amicably and cordially within the framework of Arab institutions, especially the Arab League and its branches such as the Arab summits and the regional specialized Arab organs.

History teaches us that the Arabs realized their major victories when they achieved the required level of unity of ranks and aims, especially when Egypt and Syria were in the same trench. This occurred when the glorious October [1973] victory was achieved. On more than one occasion, Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad said that as an Arab citizen he will not condone maintaining an estrangement between Egypt and Syria. He described his comrade-in-arms President Husni Mubarak's policies as good, adding that he and Mubarak complement one another.

Therefore, the Arab people welcomed the Egyptian-Syrian rapprochement and the end of the temporary chill that characterized their official ties for some time. The Arab people regard this rapprochement as an auspicious beginning for the entire Arab nation and as new evidence of the foresight of President Mubarak, who has been reaffirming Egypt's Arabism and its close ties with the hopes and pains of the Arab nation since he assumed his responsibilities.

'Extremist Religious Groups' Demonstrate in Asyut

NC1212173789 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1636 GMT 12 Dec 89

[Excerpt] Cairo, 12 Dec (MENA)—Interior Minister Zaki Badr said that extremist religious groups in Asyut attempted to stage a demonstration in the city center yesterday encouraged by Dr Muhammad Habib, chairman of the Asyut University Staff Club. The demonstration, Badr added, was meant as a show of strength by these groups after certain extremist figures had been successful in the recent elections of the Asyut University Staff Club.

Armed with Molotov cocktails, sticks, and weapons, these groups provoked the city's police forces and actually assaulted some policemen. Stepping in to restore order, police forces broke up the demonstration and banned the citizens from assembling, Badr said.

Speaking to journalists today, the interior minister said that 300 extremists were arrested and referred to the prosecutor's office for interrogation. A number of demonstrators and policemen suffered mild injuries, but there was no loss of life, he said.

Zaki Badr pledged that the police will not back down in confronting deviant elements and outlaws, will not be the weaker side, and will not hesitate to perform their duty to protect the safety of the homeland and its citizens. [passage omitted]

[Paris AFP in English at 1626 GMT on 12 December adds: "Travellers to Cairo from Asyut said meanwhile that Muslim fundamentalist students at the Polytechnic University of Asyut attacked other students Sunday in a bid to stop a group of men and women from going on an outing. "Muslim fundamentalists are against men and women participating in joint events. On Monday, the travellers said, several hundred students and their professors staged a silent demonstration to protest the attack."]

69 'Extremists' Held

NC1312143989 Cairo MENA in English 1318 GMT 13 Dec 89

[Text] Asyut, Upper Egypt, Dec 13 (MENA)—Asyut general prosecution ordered that 69 extremists be held on remand for fifteen days pending interrogation and that 82 persons be released. The defendents face four charges of resisting authorities, possession of arms and explosives, distribution of leaflets hostile to the rule and rallying. The 69 persons remanded into custody are members of the extremists groups who were involved in Monday events that took place in Asyut.

Sudan

Official Hails U.S. Support for Peace Efforts

EA1212161789 Omdurman Domestic Service in English 1500 GMT 11 Dec 89

[Text] The rapporteur of the national conference on peace issues and member of the government peace delegation to Nairobi, Colonel Hasan Muhammad Dahawi, stated that the U.S. support to the efforts to establish peace in the Sudan has been positive and constructive. This, he said, obliges the two sides to

exhibit objectivity as contained in the U.S. declaration which explicitly affirmed the success of the Nairobi talks.

Col Dahawi also explained that the declared U.S. stand conformed absolutely with the announcement by U.S. Deputy Foreign Secretary Mr Herman Cohen the members of the Sudanese peace delegation during their visit to U.S. last November. [sentence as heard]

Earlier, Mr Cohen described the resolutions of the national dialogue conference on peace issues as constructive and the first objective and integrated project coined by a Sudanese Government to solve the southern problem.

Malwal Urges Husni Mubarak Role in Peace Talks

JN1312043089 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 10 Dec 89 p 9

[Excerpts] Sudan has asked President Husni Mubarak to exert efforts to hold the third round of talks with John Garang's rebel movement in Cairo. Sudan also asked Cairo to be a principal player in the dialogue.

Staff Colonel Martin Mulwal, member of the National Salvation Revolution Command Council, has said that the second round of talks held in Nairobi between the government delegation under Staff Colonel Muhammad al-Amin Khalifah and the [Sudanese People's Liberation] Movement [SPLM] delegation under Dr Lam Akol has taken a significant step toward peace, which will need time before it can be reached. He also said that a solution could have been reached, but there was no third party to help achieve a solution.

In exclusive statements to AL-AHRAM correspondent Mahmud Murad before leaving Cairo for Tokyo yesterday, Colonel Martin Mulwal said that President Husni Mubarak—in his capacity as OAU chairman and as president of Egypt, the closest country to Sudan and the country that best understands its problems; and in view of the president's experience and sound thinking on different issues; and in view of the confidence that the Sudanese leadership, the SPLM leadership, and the Sudanese people in the north and south place in him—is the only one qualified to play an effective role in settling the question and achieving peace. This can be accomplished by inviting both parties to a round of talks in Cairo in which the president would play a major role and intervene when necessary to bring viewpoints closer. [passage omitted]

Col Martin said that John Garang—whom he personally knows since they were both in the Army—trusts President Mubarak and Egypt. He also said: He will accept peace in the end because this is what all people in the south desire. Therefore, he accepted, through his delegation to the Nairobi talks, the resolutions of the national dialogue conference as a constructive basis for resolving Sudan's problems.

Regarding the recent events in Khartoum, the Sudanese official said that what happened at Khartoum University was a clash between communist students and students belonging to the Islamic Front. He also said when these demonstrators took to the streets, and when some of them tried to abuse the demonstrations, the police intervened to protect the students and to maintain stability and security.

Interview With RCC Member Martin Malwal

PM1312141089 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 9 Dec 89 p 2

[Excerpt] Cairo, Khartoum, AL-SHARQ Al-AWSAT bureau—Colonel Martin Malwal, Sudanese Revolution Command Council [RCC] member and political supervisor of Bahr El Ghazal Province, has emphasized that the Sudanese Government did not expect a comprehensive peace agreement to be achieved at the Nairobi meeting with the Garang movement.

Malwal described the Garang movement's agreement to negotiate as a positive step, especially since the two sides agreed on numerous points.

In a statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT yesterday during his current visit to Egypt, Malwal expressed his hope of completing the agreement at another meeting in the near future. He pointed out that the recommendations of the national dialogue conference on the peace issues in Sudan are a basic solution to the war problem in the south, chosen by a broad internal front base and supported by the neighboring and fraternal states.

Answering a question on the frequent demonstrations in Khartoum, he said: We welcome any idea that could serve Sudan. However, we will deal severely and vigorously with any partisan tendencies seeking to interfere with the Sudanese people's security and stability.

He added: We know the orientations of such tendencies, which represent a small group. He emphasized that the National Salvation Revolution government has from the outset rightly told the people the facts in order to overcome Sudan's political and economic crises. Therefore, groups seeking to stir up confusion and unrest in the country will be deterred.

Concerning the release of political prisoners, Col Malwal said that Al-Turabi and Al-Mirghani were released because there was no evidence of corruption against them. Investigations are still continuing with regard to Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, and when he is proved innocent, he will be released immediately.

He affirmed that political prisoners are treated very well and enjoy the best medical and psychological care.

Concerning the economic crisis in Sudan, he said that the previous party governments left the country economically exhausted, which created the need to explain the situation to the people so that they could double the national output. All Sudan's economic experts convened

a conference which issued recommendations on how to resolve the present crisis. This is in addition to visits to Gulf and African states and the United States with a view to explaining the economic situation in Sudan and the solutions achieved. [passage omitted]

Government Forces Retake Garrison Towns

AB1312160989 Paris AFP in English 1543 GMT 13 Dec 89

[Text] Khartoum, Dec 13 (AFP)—Sudanese Government troops have recaptured from SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Army] rebels two garrison towns and the Shali al-Fil Region in Blue Nile province close to the Ethiopian border, the Armed Forces daily reported here Wednesday.

The troops forced the "Khawarej" (outlaws) out of Dora and Daym Mansur after they were taken last month by the Sudanese People's Liberation Army, AL-KUWWAT AL-MUSALLAHA said.

It added that the rebels had sustained heavy losses, but gave no details. The report came after last Saturday's claim that government troops had retaken the Kaka region in Upper Nile Province, following last month's recapture of the strategic Blue Nile border town of Kurmuk.

Peace talks between the junta in Khartoum and the SPLA broke down last week on the key issue of Islamic shari'ah law. The rebels have been fighting since 1983 for a secular Sudan to free the animist and Christian south from domination by the Moslem-majority north.

Rebel Spokesman Rebuts Government Claims

EA1212220789 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 12 Dec 89

[Text] A spokesman of the SPLM/SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Movement/Army] political military high command today issued a statement condemning the mounting atrocities of the Khartoum military junta. The spokesman condemned the death sentence passed on Dr Ma'mun Muhammad Husayn and the 15 year-imprisonment sentence passed by Khartoum on Dr Sayyid Muhammad Abdullah: The junta's violation of human rights by killing unarmed citizens and the murdering of trade union members and students must be condemned by the Sudanese public and international community.

The spokesman said that the junta's recent killing of two students of Khartoum University is a brutal crime and explained the junta's repressive actions to deny the Sudanese people of peace and socioeconomic developments. The spokesman further said that the junta's brutality can only yield increased hostility in the country.

In response to the junta's announcement that the Nairobi peace talks between the SPLM/SPLA and the junta was successful, the spokesman said the junta is not even ashamed to bluntly lie to the Sudanese people. The Nairobi talks were not successful, the spokesman reiterated. After the failure of the Nairobi peace talks, to which the junta is held responsible for refusing to accept the four-point peace program presented by the SPLM/SPLA, the Junta announced in Khartoum that the talks were successful. This is a lie.

In a related development, the junta announced that its forces have captured the trading centre of Kaka from SPLA hands. This announcement is a vain self-consolation and reveals the junta's lies to deceive the Sudanese public in an attempt to force itself out of the mounting internal opposition against it. The truth is there has been no presence of SPLA or government troops in Kaka since 1983, and there cannot have been a fighting between the SPLA and troops of the junta in Kaka, when our troops are not in or around Kaka.

The junta's congratulating themselves on entering Rumbek is a misnomer. If Rumbek is a town in their hands, why are the junta congratulating themselves on entering their own garrisons? No one congratulates himself for entering his own house.

The official spokesman concluded by saying that the heroic struggle which has been waged by our masses against forces of doom, forces of National Islamic Front [NIF], will demand from all oppositions to be united and join hands in order to overthrow the Junta of the NIF and to achieve peace and equality in our country.

Long live the struggle of the trade union movement! Long live the struggle of the Sudanese people!

Kuwait

Prime Minister Discusses Economic Measures

JN1412094789 Kuwait ARAB TIMES in English 12 Dec 89 pp 1, 7

[Report by Ahmed al-Jarallah, ARAB TIMES editor in chief]

[Text] The Kuwaiti Government is determined to cut red tape in order to push forward the economic measures recently announced in a special report, said HH [High Highness] the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah in an exclusive interview with the ARAB TIMES.

He also set a date for reactivating the economy by implementing the recommendations.

Shaykh Sa'd further vowed to "chase" all those elements (responsible) for distorting the image and reputation of government staff.

Shaykh Sa'd expressed optimism about the future of the economy in Kuwait and said he expects the measures to be implemented by Jan 1990. "By the first month of the new year," he said, "we will have implemented the measures."

The economic report recommended easing issuance of visit visas for businessemen.

The Crown Prince and Prime Minister said he has given instructions to the minister of interior to "exert flexibility (in matters) related to issuance of visit visas for businessmen and solve some obstacles facing some commercial activities."

He has also given orders to improve commercial transport between Kuwait and the neighbouring states. Shaykh Sa'd said: "Such facilities (indicate) our wish to restore transit trade to its past glory."

Shaykh Sa'd stressed he will personally supervise the implementation of the recommendations made in the economic report.

"We can't say whether the decisions and measures taken are complete or final. They will always be subject to review to arrive at the best solution," he said. He stressed any improvements can only be found through implementation of the measures. "If, during implementation, we find there are better means, we will certainly adopt them," the Crown Prince emphasised.

He said the timing of the recommendations was good and that he had taken a personal interest in preparing the economic report and recommendations. It took three months to prepare the report.

"Our recommendations were well-timed to suit the changing situation in the world when tension was easing. This will certainly have a positive impact on the world economy," he said.

Replying to a question about whether a rise in Kuwait's oil production quota by OPEC would result in increased government spending, Shaykh Sa'd said:

"This will bolster Kuwait's revenue. Oil prices are also rising. All this may enable Kuwait to fulfil many of its domestic commitments related to development and economic revival.

"Stagnation in the economy has now receded. The world economy is witnessing prosperity and growth rates are going up," he said.

He was confident that the recent economic measures adopted by Kuwait would lead to prosperity. The measures would help a large number of citizens to overcome debts they had accumulated as a result of the economic slump in 1982, he said.

He added any revision of the recent economic measures would indicate the flexibility (of the government) to render a better service to the public and improve the financial situation.

He predicted a rosy future for the Kuwait economy and said the economy would be revitalised after the implementation of the measures. He was making the comments based on the positive and encouraging trends now prevailing in the country. He stressed the recommendations would "lead to a prosperous economy" covering all sectors like construction and contracting, industry, business, securities and trading. All these sectors have been tackled by the economic report, recently issued by the government.

Answering a query about bureaucratic red tape, Shaykh Sa'd said: "I regret to say that there are some elements among the public servants who distort, intentionally or unintentionally, the image and reputation of the government to create despair among the public."

Shaykh Sa'd stressed steps would be taken to "chase these elements and develop the administrative staff by follow-up."

He added: "We will trace these elements; what they do is very bad, whether it is done intentionally or unintentionally."

Shaykh Sa'd empahsised the government's keenness to "redress the grievances of the public and look into the complaints of the public" to avoid delay in government procedures.

He reiterated, he would not tolerate "any person among government staff who distorted the image and reputation (of the government staff) in the eyes of the public."

Commenting on the forthcoming GCC [Gulf Cooperation Council] summit, scheduled to be held in Muscat later this month, Shaykh Sa'd stressed its importance and said: "We believe the GCC is one of the good and unique features in the Gulf. It has created strong cooperation among member states."

He said the Muscat summit comes amid vital political developments in the world.

He cited the examples of the changes sweeping Europe, particularly the tearing down of the Berlin Wall and widespread changes in the East bloc states, who have abandoned their closed-door ideologies, "desiring openness."

"All the GCC programmes, agreements and studies indicate the strong desire of its leaders (to have) more open relations and the link the economic, cultural and social ties.

"The GCC summit in Muscat will discuss the means to further link the interests of the GCC member-states, a measure that we really need at present," he said.

Shaykh Sa'd, commenting on the proposed fresh water pipeline from Iraq, said the "project to bring fresh water from Iraq to Kuwait is final and (has been) settled."

He said Iraqi fresh water will be pumped to Kuwait "as programmed and in accordance with the agreements made between the two countries."

He said a number of experts will be assigned to study the various means of bringing fresh water to Kuwait. "This," he said, "would be done in a bid to (study) the several alternatives." He said the Iraq-Kuwait water project would be offered on tender shortly to prepare the plans.

PDRY

Council of Ministers Calls for Unionist Steps

EA1312213389 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 12 Dec 89

[Text] The Council of Ministers held its regular meeting this morning [12 December] under the chairmanship of Brother Dr Yasin Sa'id Nu'man, member of the Political Bureau and chairman of the Council of Ministers.

The Council reviewed the results of the historic Aden summit meeting between the two political leaderships in the two parts of the homeland. It highly appreciated the historic Aden unionist accord, which truly embodies the aspirations of the masses of our Yemeni people throughout the Yemeni arena and outside it. The council confirmed that this new unionist national gain, which the Yemeni masses with all their nationalist forces and their social groups received with joy and pleasure, and which was welcomed and supported by the sisterly and friendly states, constitutes a solid basis for achieving the unity of the homeland and its continued progress. It is the key to its growth and prosperity, for the good and stability of the Yemeni people. The Council of Ministers emphasized the necessity of pursuing unionist measures promptly, at all levels and in all spheres, and of striving to implement the unionist accord to achieve total merger and total unity—our people's noble aim.

The Council of Ministers expressed its great appreciation of the important decisions which the 18th extraordinary session of the Yemeni Socialist Party Central Committee made. The council called on all the ministries, central and local organs, and state establishments to understand the spirit of those decisions creatively, and to implement them in all their national, social, economic, and political dimensions. The council called on those bodies to assimilate them in their daily work with the citizens; to strive to develop the mutual brotherly relations with ministries, central and local organs and state establishments in the northern part of the homeland; and to facilitate official and popular contacts between the brothers in the two parts to achieve a complete merger of those ministries and establishments in the two parts.

The council stressed the importance of activating the joint ministerial committees, benefiting from all the previous agreements, and speeding up implementation of the tasks entrusted to them during the established period, in accordance with the Aden agreements between the leaderships of the two parts.

The Council of Ministers entrusted all the concerned ministries with implementing all the decisions issued by the Central Committee, at its 18th extraordinary session, regarding the movement of goods of Yemeni origin between the two parts and abolishing all obstacles to their movement.

The Council of Ministers discussed and approved at its meeting a regulation and measures for developing exports, and a regulation that eases the import of production equipment and spare parts, as well as a program to improve airport and port services, in fulfillment of the Political Bureau's decisions.

It approved a number of investment projects for the private sector, for the production of eggs and chicken, and tourist projects.

The Council of Ministers will continue its meeting tomorrow, Wednesday, to complete discussion of the remaining issues on its agenda.

Al-'Attas Discusses Unity, U.S. Relations

PM1312100189 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 9 Dec 89 pp 4-5

[Interview with Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas, chairman of the Supreme People's Council Presidium in the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen, by Zaki Shihab in Aden; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Shihab] Chairman al-'Attas, let us begin with the agreement signed recently—the Aden agreement. How would you describe the signing of the agreement and the moments that preceded its announcement?

[Al-'Attas] We were in the middle of the brotherly Yemeni dialogues and the serious and responsible discussions which made that great historic decision late in November—the month of the southern part's independence. And as a Yemeni citizen I was very happy for us to be able to participate in that crucial historic moment of our Yemeni

people's history—the moment at which the unity agreement was signed and the united state's constitution was referred to the legislative bodies in the two parts for endorsement. I was very happy because that step had been postponed for years—namely since the united state's constitution was drawn up at the end of 1981. And despite the relatively long period which had elapsed since the draft constitution was completed, it was endorsed as a result of the sincere and constructive efforts exerted by the leaderships of the two parts through the brotherly dialogues which continued from 1986 and were crowned with the signing of that agreement on the basis of brotherly cooperation and open dialogue. [passage omitted]

[Shihab] Mr Chairman, are we to expect the implementation of the agreement to be speeded up?

[Al-'Attas] Actually the relations between the two parts of Yemen are brotherly and have been dominated by the spirit of understanding and mutual trust over the recent period. The atmosphere between the two leaderships has been enhanced by the peaceful conditions, democratic events, and the masses' enthusiasm, warmth, and longing for the day of unity. I expect matters concerning the realization of that task to proceed normally. And a number of organizational steps must be taken regarding either discussion of the draft constitution by the legislative bodies in the two parts, or a referendum on it. And certainly we will do our utmost to benefit from the time available to the two parts.

[Shihab] You always say that there are many common denominators. But over what issues do the two parts have differences?

[Al-'Attas] We always search for common denominators and points of agreement rather than points of disagreement. So through the prevalence of that spirit we can eliminate all the points of disagreement. Disagreement over issues on that level is natural, but the more we concentrate on the common denominators, the fewer differences there will be over one issue or another from among the social, economic, and political development issues.

[Shihab] What is the future of the two ruling parties in Aden and Sanaa under the united state?

[Al-'Attas] That will be decided by the political organization committee, from which we expect fruitful work during the period set for it, that is, 2 months as of the signing of the agreement. And there are many options. The two political leaderships are for the option that preserves the independence of these two political organizations—the Yemeni Social Party and the General People's Congress—within the framework of a broad national front, opening the doors for the political and national forces which believe in the aims of the September and October revolutions to participate in it. [passage omitted]

[Shihab] Officials in the southern part have recently—and on several occasions—stressed that there can be no unity without democracy. Why that linkage?

[Al-'Attas] Our struggle march in the southern part of Yemen since independence has produced the conviction that democratic practice is a principal foundation for making major achievements in the fields of comprehensive economic and social development in the country and for enhancing potentials in the various fields. This is because democracy enables all groups of citizens to genuinely participate in the various processes under way in the country. You follow the dialogues which started in the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen [PDRY] a while ago over comprehensive political and economic reforms, and you have probably noted the emphasis that democracy is the foundation of the new outset and future development. That is with regard to the southern part of Yemen. Certainly, under unity the democratic process will be more comprehensive, and the greater Yemeni society will urgently need that process so that it can confidently build the united state and continue to build its future and civilization. And democracy will be our foundation, because it will enable everyone to participate.

[Shihab] How do you see united Yemen's relations with the neighboring states?

[Al-'Attas] They will be nothing but relations of brotherhood, amity, goodness, and cooperation. Yemen is the Yemen of goodness, happiness, and cooperation. So I expect united Yemen's relations with the Arab brothers to be cordial relations—relations of continuous cooperation. This is because, when the Yemeni state is realized, it will create a strong feeling throughout the Arab homeland about the possibility of restoring our nation's unity. I am also optimistic that Yemen's unity will strengthen the approach of cooperation and integration in the Arab homeland.

[Shihab] Will the PDRY join the Arab Cooperation Council [ACC] on the grounds that the northern part is member of the council?

[Al-'Attas] Yemen will be one state, so we are seeking to establish that united state.

[Shihab] Do you have any objection to joining the ACC?

[Al-'Attas] That subject was discussed some time ago. But our concern in the southern part is to move toward Yemeni unity and then Arab unity.

[Shihab] What is your position toward the Gulf Cooperation Council in that regard?

[Al-'Attas] We are hoping for a more comprehensive Arab step in the future. And, as I said, perhaps the Yemeni people's unity will revive our Arab people's hopes.

[Shihab] You met with the Iranian foreign minister during his recent visit to Aden. Did you discuss with him the need to reactivate the frozen negotiations between Iraq and Iran?

[Al-'Attas] Certainly. During our meetings, we seek and exert efforts to reactivate and bolster the Iraqi-Iranian dialogue, which started by stopping the war on the basis of the UN Security Council resolution. And, we, of course,

broached discusssed issue and came out with the impression that there is positive development in that regard.

[Shihab] Some time ago you received Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal. How are relations between the two countries?

[Al-'Attas] We received Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal during the joint ministerial committee meeting between the two fraternal countries. Bilateral cooperation relations as well as issues of common interest were discussed. And we are exerting efforts with the brothers in Saudi Arabia to move a step toward strengthening relations of cooperation and prosperity between the two countries.

[Shihab] There are movements opposed to the leaderships in the northern and southern parts. What is the future of these movements, and did the two leaderships discuss that?

[Al-'Attas] Just as we spoke about the democratic process and the national forces' participation, all these matters will be dealt with under the united state. And in the future participation will be confined to the forces which believe in the Yemeni people's unity, the Yemeni revolution's aims, and the building of the united state.

[Shihab] The political and economic reform plan was recently raised in the southern part. What are the priorities of that plan? Was it not possible to raise it earlier?

[Al-'Attas] Certainly reforms were supposed to have occurred in the southern part of the homeland long ago. There were attempts to effect reforms in 1978, but the idea was raised only after the 13 January incidents. Reforms are being focused on now because the time is right. The principal issue which needs reform is the economic issue, which will enable all groups and forces in the southern part to devote their energies and capabilities to economic development, and we are urged to give all national capabilities the opportunity to participate in the social and economic development process.

[Shihab] There are many fears that the Aden agreement's could meet with the same fate that the Cairo, Kuwait, and Tripoli agreements met with before. Are such fears justified?

[Al-'Attas] On the contrary, I see the present conditions as different from the past conditions in which the Cairo agreement was signed. These agreements were signed in a tense atmosphere—and probably an atmosphere of war—between the two parts. But this agreement is taking place in a peaceful atmosphere dominated by trust and sincere brotherly dialogues. So the situation is totally different. Therefore we do not expect any obstacles to hinder the implementation of the agreement. [passage omitted]

[Shihab] Why have U.S.-PDRY diplomatic relations not yet been restored despite the long dialogue? And there any issues preventing the opening of a U.S. embassy in Aden?

[Al-'Attas] This question should be addressed to the United States. However, dialogues are continuing and I expect them to proceed as planned.

[Shihab] What do the Americans demand?

[Al-'Attas] There are a number of special issues between the two countries which are being discussed and dealt with normally.

[Shihab] [Yemen Arab Republic] President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih intends to visit the United States shortly. Will he raise that question?

[Al-'Attas] I do not believe that there is any complex matter requiring him to do that.

[Shihab] Your Excellency Mr Chairman, two issues were raised in Aden recently: Red Sea security, and the environment and its preservation. What prompted that?

[Al-'Attas] These two issues are important within the framework of preserving Red Sea security. There are dialogues among the Red Sea states, and we hope that these dialogues will continue. We also hope that cooperation will be maintained among these states to keep the region calm and free of tension. We also raised the question of preserving the environment and the need not to allow ships to dump their waste in it. [passage omitted]

United Arab Emirates

President Gets Message From Hashemi-Rafsanjani

JN1312184989 Manama WAKH in English 1657 GMT 13 Dec 89

[Text] Abu Dhabi, Dec 13 (GNA)—UAE President Shaykh Zayid Ibn-Sultan Al Nuhayyan received a written message from Iranian President 'Ali Hashemi-Rafsanjani dealing with the situation in the region and relations between the two countries.

The message was delivered by Iranian Ambassador to the UAE Dr. Mohammad 'Ali Hadi Najafabadi today.

Armed Forces Deputy Chief Leaves for Pakistan

JN1312184589 Manama WAKH in English 1650 GMT 13 Dec 89

[Text] Abu Dhabi, Dec 13 (GNA)—Abu Dhabi Crown Prince and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces Shaykh Khalifah Ibn-Zayid al-Nuhayyan left for Pakistan today on a private trip.

He was seen off by a number of shaykhs and ministers.

'Aziz Cited on Peace With Iran, Rocket System

JN1312211889 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1900 GMT 13 Dec 89

[Text] The United Nations, 13 Dec (INA)—Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has declared Iraq had welcomed the mission of Jan Eliasson, special envoy of the UN secretary general, and cooperated with him in good faith.

At a news conference at UN Headquarters, 'Aziz said Iraq had addressed several questions to the Iranian Government through the UN envoy on major issues concerning the settlement with the aim of better understanding the Iranian stance. 'Aziz added Iraq sought to tackle the pressing issues concerning peace, as the 16 months following the cease-fire agreement has not brought us any closer to peace.

Tariq 'Aziz indicated these questions focus on matters pertaining to withdrawal and to Iraq's sovereignty over the Shatt al-'Arab. He added the Iranian stance on these issues will govern and shape future ties between the two countries. He went on to say these questions also focus on Iran's concept of peace, security, and good neighborliness with Iraq and the region; the Iranian position on the prisoners of war [POW's]; and the Iranians' views on the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution No 598 as a peace plan.

'Aziz pointed out Iraq has not received any real clarification indicative of a serious change in the Iranian stance vis-a-vis any of these issues. He asserted the Iranian Government has remained vague and continued to pursue a selective approach. He added Iran is not committed to the major issues conducive to peace.

'Aziz went on to say Iraq still believes Resolution No 598 is a peace plan, and that its implementation requires direct negotiations under the auspices of the UN secretary general to reach a common understanding by both sides on all the paragraphs contained in this resolution and the deadlines for implementing them.

The Iraqi foreign minister said the Iranians still are procrastinating on committing themselves to implementing the 8 August 1988 agreement reached through the good offices of the UN secretary general. He added Iraq has proposed forming five joint committees involving Iraq, Iran, and the UN General Secretariat to discuss major, pressing issues concerning peace, aimed at creating proper political and psychological circumstances conducive to peace.

'Aziz added Iraq proposed these committees alternately meet in Baghdad and Tehran, and that they have a 3-month limit to conclude their work and accomplish their tasks. He indicated the Iraqi proposal stipulated these committees would prepare for a ministerial meeting under the auspices of the UN secretary general. The proposal did not rule out high-level meetings in the presence of the UN secretary general at venues and dates agreed upon by the two sides.

In reply to questions posed by reporters, 'Aziz said Iraq's stance is based on the belief the major step now is to hold fruitful, documented direct negotiations between Iraq and Iran to reach a common understanding of Resolution No 598 as a peace plan. He added: When we get into this phase, we would be able to talk about an agenda and also about agreements to implement Resolution No 598.

When asked about sovereignty over Shatt al-'Arab, 'Aziz said withdrawal and Iraq's sovereignty over Shatt al-'Arab are of the same nature.

Asked whether Iraq has any conditions concerning these two issues, 'Aziz replied: We have not talked of any conditions. Our stand is we have to sit at the negotiating table to discuss things. However, we would like to state the issues of withdrawal and sovereignty over Shatt al-'Arab are of the same nature, and that they must be discussed together, within the same framework.

'Aziz branded Iran's handling of the POW's issue as scandalous, and indicated this stance is a flagrant violation of the obligations enshrined in the 1949 Geneva Convention. He added all states are legally and morally obligated under this convention to work to ensure the immediate repatriation and exchange of all POW's. This convention stipulates the issue must be discussed in isolation from the other paragraphs contained in Resolution No 598, 'Aziz said. He pointed out "this is the clear meaning of the Geneva Convention. This also is the stand of the International Committee of the Red Cross. If this meaning is not heeded, the POW's will remain hostage to political considerations, as has been the case with the Iranians."

The foreign minister called upon the UN secretary general and the UN Security Council to act quickly to ensure the release and exchange of more than 100,000 Iraqi and Iranian POW's, who have remained captive despite the elapse of 16 months since the cease-fire agreement because of this scandalous Iranian stance.

In reply to a question on the successful test launch by Iraq of a satellite-carrier rocket system, Tariq 'Aziz said this scientific accomplishment is designed for peaceful purposes. He added Iraq, like other nations, has the right to acquire technology and use it for peaceful purposes.

On Iraq's development of a missile system that has a range of 2,000 km, the foreign minister said: We have to take our defense needs into account, as Iraq still is threatened by Iran. We still are in a state of no-war, no-peace. Besides, the Iranians have not demonstrated sufficient readiness to achieve a comprehensive and full peace. Consequently, we will do our best to acquire the necessary defense equipment required to defend our country in case the other side contemplates the resumption of hostilities.

Rabin Contends PLO 'Main Obstacle' to Peace

AU1312181089 Hamburg DIE WELT in German 13 Dec 89 p 10

[Interview with Israeli Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin by Lothar Ruehl: "Rabin: The Superpowers Can No Longer Tell Us What To Do"; date and place not given]

[Text] DIE WELT: What situation has developed in Palestine after 2 years of Arab uprising or intifadah, as the Arabs call it, and what are Israel's chances of pacifying the West Bank and the area around Gaza?

Rabin: First of all, one has to define the unique phenomenon, which we call uprising and the Arabs' intifadah. It is the first time since the state of Israel was founded on 14 May 1949 that the Arabs in Palestine have taken matters into their own hands and are carrying out the struggle themselves. Before, that is to say until December 1987, the responsibility for the Palestinian cause was left to the Arab states, and subsequently to the terrorist activities of the PLO. This means that the Arabs' struggle in Palestine, which used to be a territory under British mandate, was conducted mainly from the outside and not so much from the inside. This has changed since December 1987, and thus, the perspectives for all those who are involved in this conflict have also changed: The Arab population in the areas of the West Bank of the River Jordan and Gaza have begun to act themselves, and have assumed the political responsibility for their future.

Second: The objectives remain the same. Just like the Arab states have tried before—with their armies in the wars they waged against us, as well as the Arab terrorist groups with their attacks—the Palestinians want to snatch control from Israel. Third: What has really changed are the means they are applied. The intifadah is a kind of popular movement which is supported by parts of the population, and which consists of a combination of passive resistance and acts of violence against the Israeli Administration. This special feature of the uprising or intifadah requires that the acts of violence, whose dimension is increasing, rely on a very simple organization so that they can become effective on a wider scale, and that most primitive means are used. This is the only way the civilian and popular character of this resistance is able to develop its effects.

In order to act on a collective basis, action must take place on a level that corresponds to the abilities and the commitment of the average people. Some 85 percent of all intifadah activities consist of throwing stones, while another 10 percent are related to it: burning garbage and used car tires. Only about 5 percent of the attacks involve knives, Molotov cocktails, and sometimes guns, such as pistols, automatic Kalashnikov rifles, or hand grenades. Otherwise it would be impossible to organize and often repeat such actions that meet with general support. This is the difference between the intifadah and acts of terrorism from the underground—acts which involve only a few people and can be organized and launched only by small organizations that cooperate closely and in rather small groups. One does not need any weapons, no supply to maintain active resistance in the streets, because stones are everywhere.

DIE WELT: Nevertheless, during the nearly 2 years of intifadah, more than 650 Arab Palestinians were killed in the conflict, 15,000 to 20,000 injured, and more than 50,000 temporarily arrested. This proves that the clashes with the Israeli army must have been very severe, and that guns were applied quite liberally. How do you respond to this criticism, and are there any chances that police actions against this popular revolt are successful?

Rabin: If we talk about statistics we must first say that until 15 November 1989, 526 Palestinians were killed in clashes, 136 of whom by Palestinians themselves. Moreover, recently the number of killings among Palestinians has considerably increased. Between 7 December 1987 and 1 January 1989 only 18 Palestinians were killed by other Palestinians, whereas between the beginning of this year and 15 November 1989, this number was 118. This indicates a certain development of intifadah which shows that the motivation for commitment has decreased and that it is increasingly being replaced or at least supported by terrorist attacks or threats of such attacks.

Apart from acts of violence the turmoils or the uprising consists of passive resistance: strikes and the closing of shops as a way of protest. We decided to tolerate it. If they want to stop work, then they should do so. We can survive even if the Palestinians do not work. If they decide to close their shops at certain hours, then they may do so. Those who offer this passive resistance do the greatest damage to themselves and the Arab population.

DIE WELT: What are the chances for finding a solution to this problem?

Rabin: From the very beginning I said that the army is able to keep the situation under control, quell violent activities, and reduce the number of acts of violence. But I have also said that it is impossible to achieve a military solution, and that the army can only help create the conditions for a political solution. Since the 1982 operation "Peace for Galilea" the army has not been able to completely eliminate terrorism, but at least it reduced its base. The military was successful in the areas of the West Bank and in Gaza in the sense that it supported the Israeli Administration and that it showed the Arab population that it has no chance of making Israel withdraw. In the war we did not withdraw even in the face of an overwhelming number of tanks, artillery, and fighter planes, which were deployed by Arab states against Israel, but we defeated them and struck back even beyond our borders. We did not yield to the pressure of terrorist attacks, and we will not give way to stones that are thrown at us. This is the political message of the Israeli army to the Palestine population: It cannot serve its own cause by using violence. Nevertheless, we have had an overall policy for the areas in question only since

May 1989. This policy rests on two pillars: first, the peace initiative of the Israeli Government, which is to develop from confrontation to negotiation. Only by way of negotiations will we find the path to a political solution, which may be useful for the Palestinian population. Second, there is military security. It is the responsibility of a military government to maintain law and order. This is what we have done and what we will continue to do.

DIE WELT: Can you be sure that people understand you?

Rabin: The development toward dialogue will need more time. Since we founded the state of Israel we had to wage four wars to defend ourselves and hold our own to convince the Arab states that Israel will last and that even violence applied by superior powers in the form of war against Israel does not lead to victory, but to defeat, and that thus, it is useless. Finally, we achieved peace with Egypt following the war of 1973. This changed the situation in the Middle East. We continue to be exposed to the threat by other Arab states, but we control our situation and the security at our borders. Finally, we also will convince the Palestinians that they have no chance against us, neither on the basis of terrorist attacks nor with an uprising.

What is the duty of the army in this context? First: to reduce acts of violence to a tolerable level and to create relative peace; second: to support the administration so it can work properly. I cannot say that we have perfectly fulfilled both tasks, but we have created a situation in which security is widely guaranteed through our military activities, while through legal and administrative-economic measures we have managed to prevent the extremists from succeeding in making the great majority of the Palestinian population participate in demonstrations, particularly violent ones. The times of great mass demonstrations are almost over.

DIE WELT: Do you not expect that such mass actions might return and that the resistance might be strengthened? All such movements tend to develop in waves, and the leaders of the intifadah will not admit their defeat as long as they manage to bring activists to the streets.

Rabin: Of course, I do not exclude anything. Nevertheless, we have observed signs of weariness. The Palestinians are not holding back because they want to give up their resistance, but they are growing tired of these demonstrations that have no chance for success; these means are wearing out. Second, the Palestinians have realized that any slogans for "civil disobedience," that is to say the attempt to separate the population from the administration and to obstruct it, are doomed to fail. It is our administrative and legal measures that are effective and that are beginning to convince the great majority of Palestinians that, in the long run, passive resistance cannot be successful. This understanding is gaining more and more support, at least among adults. Those who throw the stones are children under the age of 13. This throwing of stones is currently our main problem.

DIE WELT: What do you do against it?

Rabin: We get hold of them and then talk to their parents, and then they have to pay a certain amount of money. If their children are not caught throwing stones or committing other acts of violence within 1 year, they get the money back, otherwise it is forfeited. Our soldiers try to get along with as little force as possible, and usually they are successful. We are observing an increase in terrorist activities among Palestinians. Without threatening its own people with force, the intifadah would no longer be able to maintain passive resistance. The increase in the number of terrorist attacks against Palestinians by extremists shows that the political commitment is decreasing even on the level of passive resistance. The increasing murders of Palestinians by Palestinians in 1989, which showed a dramatic rise in only 9 months, shows a dramatic decrease in the motivation of the population.

DIE WELT: What are the conclusions that are to be drawn for the further development of the intifadah? Will it become even more radical and more terrorism-oriented?

Rabin: There is a chance of this happening. However, we are better prepared for effective action against typical terrorist activities than against the kind of violence and uprising that we were mainly facing up to now. Sometimes this is more painful, but I will give you a topical example: In Nablus we eliminated three terrorist groups. We are better equipped and trained for the struggle against terrorism than against such demonstrations that involve throwing stones, arson, and street barricades. Moreover, the rules of the game have changed in terrorist attacks: The semi-violent demonstrations are a test of the patience of our armed forces. Yet, against terrorist attacks we consistently apply military means, and, generally, we are successful. If terrorist activities were to spread, we would be able to operate more effectively.

DIE WELT: Do you see the intifadah at a crossroads, and does it have to decide what road to take? What are the resulting consequences for the policy of the PLO and for the chances for negotiations, on which even Israel has to rely according to your peace initiative?

Rabin: In 1989 developments have not been favorable either for the PLO or for the intifadah. Comparing the PLO's situation 1 year ago and today this becomes obvious. The UN General Assembly moved its meeting to Geneva in 1988 so it was able to listen to 'Arafat. The Palestine National Council of Algiers and 'Arafat's news conference on the "recognition" of Israel impressed the world. The West said that 'Arafat was "remarkably flexible." What has remained of all this? The PLO's political influence has again decreased. A motion for a resolution in favor of the PLO even failed at the United Nations. The international situation has changed. One of

the reasons for this is the new policy of Israel, including the sensible proposal to hold free elections in the territories to achieve autonomy and talks on a future statute, which would serve the well-being of the Palestine population. Then came the 10-point proposal of Egyptian President Mubarak, which is closer to Israel's position for a political solution of the Palestine problem than, for example, the position of the EC. Mubarak's 10 points mainly focus on free elections and a solution in several stages. Subsequently, we had the five points of U.S. Secretary of State Baker, which are also in favor of Israel. All this happened only 7 months after Israel had launched its peace initiative.

DIE WELT: The international situation and East-West relations have fundamentally changed in 1989 as a consequence of the democratic revolution in East Europe. Does this development also have an influence on the situation in the Middle East?

Rabin: There can be no doubt that the dramatic changes constitute a new political factor even for the Middle East, even if it were only for the fact that they attract international attention and stimulate international imagination, and because, on a global level, they have led to a new era of relations between the superpowers, which also has changed the general conditions for the conflicts in the Middle East. The improvement in the relationship between the two superpowers has two important consequences. The first one is that no country in the Middle East needs to fear intervention by the superpowers, and that the two superpowers no longer have to fear being involved in a regional conflict in the Middle East. Second, solutions can no longer be forced upon anyone from the outside, and both superpowers have realized that the attempt to decide a regional conflict with their policies, like the one in the Middle East, is bound to fail. The superpowers would be able to decide such conflicts only if they were to manage to win over the conflicting parties as their partners.

DIE WELT: Do you mean that the international hierarchy in which the superpowers dominate the other states can no longer work, and that the regional leaders have more autonomy in the sphere of foreign policy and even more military autonomy, but that they can rely to a lesser extent on one of the superpowers, and that this leads to more stability in critical situations?

Rabin: The two superpowers can no longer dictate any solutions to conflicts. They can provide assistance and act as mediators, but they must coordinate their efforts with the interests of the regional states. Greater autonomy for the regional leaders does not automatically mean more leeway for wars because, in general, all states and their armed forces depend on support from outside if they want to wage a war. They depend on the supply of weapons and ammunition, as became clear during the 1973 war. The regional parties to the conflict can no longer automatically rely on the support of one of the two superpowers because the superpowers are no longer interested in having their strategic relations disturbed by regional conflicts, and they do not want to risk a negative impact on their more vital interest, such as in Europe, for example. In the past the Soviet Union tried to fish in troubled waters in the Middle East, in 1967 and 1973, for instance. The new situation also will encourage the responsible political forces in the Middle East to pursue a peaceful policy and to find peaceful solutions to the region's conflicts. Israel is ready for that.

DIE WELT: Is Israel also ready for talks with the PLO as the national representation of the Palestinians, now that the United States has established a dialogue with the PLO and after the PLO has recognized Israel's right to exist on the basis of UN resolutions?

Rabin: The PLO is the main obstacle to negotiations. Talks with the United States and Egypt to which Israel has agreed on the basis of the U.S. secretary of state's five-point plan will mainly concentrate on a process that will make possible free elections in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, so that the Arab Palestinians can decide in freedom on their political representation. Elections will enable them to choose their own political leadership and to say what they want. We offer autonomy and a process leading to a political solution of the problem. For this reason, talks between Washington, Cairo, and Jerusalem should mainly focus on the organization of elections, on the composition of a Palestinian delegation, and on an agenda for negotiations. There is no need to involve the PLO here. It is not even mentioned in the Baker plan. Once the electoral process and the electoral procedure are defined, the Palestinians can elect their representation in the West Bank and Gaza. There the potential exists for an authentic political leadership. Today, 3.5 million Palestinians are living in Israel, in the West Bank and Gaza, in Jordan, and east of the Jordan River. A total of 800,000 Arabs participate in the freedom of the democratic process in Israel; they elect their representatives together with the Israelis. A total of 1.2 to 1.3 million Palestinians are living in Jordan. They participate in elections there, and we assume that they are responsible for the 30 percent of votes for the Islamic fundamentalists in the 8 November elections in Jordan. Only the 1.5 million Palestinians in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip are not allowed to vote. We offer them this possibility. Here lies the PLO's problem.

DIE WELT: Do you not think that a large number of the 1.5 million Palestinians would vote for the PLO in free elections and for an independent state?

Rabin: We do not know how and for whom they would vote. However, we see a clear difference between most of the political leaders of the Palestinians—of course, not all of them—in these territories and the PLO. Of course, these representatives of the Palestinian population—1.5 million—who have so far not been allowed to participate in the democratic process through free elections, do not challenge the PLO publicly because they fear its terrorism. However, they feel responsible for the well-being of the population, for all needs of a living society with its families and communities. The PLO leaders in the villas

of Tunisia do not have this responsibility for the inhabitants of these territories and for the 3.5 millions of Palestinians in general who live in Israel, Jordan, and the territories, and another million who live abroad, about 50 percent of them in Lebanon and Syria. The PLO cannot represent the majority of the Palestinians. The population in the territories is much more interested in its own affairs and its well-being than the PLO in Tunisia. This is why terrorism has increased to such an extent among the Palestinians. It is aimed at preventing the development of a local political representation of the Palestinians in the territories under Israeli administration, and at preventing it from assuming responsibility.

DIE WELT: In this respect, one can draw a historic parallel with the development in Algeria under French rule 30 years ago. At the time, the National Liberation Front in Algeria also responded with increasing terrorism—also against its own population—to the French policy that was aimed at giving autonomy to Algeria and at developing its economy, in order to support their people's defiance of French concessions that did not grant them national independence in a separate state. Does this example from Northern Africa scare you?

Rabin: No, because all comparisons with the French experiences in Algeria or even the British experiences in Northern Ireland are irrelevant for the situation in our region. There is no sea between Israel and the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. We are direct neighbors with short distances between towns and villages on both sides. The security zone that separates us from these territories is only a small fraction of the width of the Mediterranean between Algiers and Marseille. However, if it were only three percent of the distance between France and Algeria, we would not have a problem, not with the PLO and not with Arab nationalism. This also applies to the relationship between Great Britain and Northern Ireland. The military aspects are totally different. In addition, the close contact has led to mutual dependence, particularly economic dependence of these territories, situated between Israel and Jordan, from Israel's economy. Let me give you an example. In 1987 about one-third of the entire gross national product of the Palestinians living in these territories was earned through wages from work in Israel, totalling $700 million to $800 million plus exports worth over $100 million. Thus, a comparison with North Africa and Northern Ireland is not useful. However, we must of course find a political solution through negotiations, no matter what kind of solution.

DIE WELT: What makes you believe in the success of Israel's policy toward the Palestinians?

Rabin: We must ensure that the Palestinians do not have any illusions but face the reality as it is: Israel will not withdraw, it will not give up. The Palestinians cannot basically change Israel's position. The conflict has developed into a struggle of attrition. Israel is well prepared for that and has the corresponding means. We are experienced in wars of attrition.

DIE WELT: Does this mean that Israel is able to live with this situation for years?

Rabin: I believe that this struggle may last another 1 or 2 more years, maybe even longer. However, we are making efforts to constantly improve the situation to achieve the two goals that I have outlined: To reduce the acts of violence to an acceptable extent and to keep the local administration functioning, while at the same time gradually normalizing general living conditions. We will succeed in doing this with patience, determination, and a constructive policy.

DIE WELT: If the PLO is an obstacle to negotiations and if Israel does not want to talk with it, and if the PLO carries out terrorist acts to prevent Israel from finding other partners for talks among the Palestinians, how will you be able to successfully conclude the political process through elections and negotiations?

Rabin: As I already pointed out, the PLO is the main obstacle. However, we will succeed in winning over all other social forces among the Palestinian population because this is in keeping with their vital interests.

Hamas Demands 'Fair Representation' in Talks

TA1412100089 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 14 Dec 89 p 12

[Report by Mikhal Sela' and agencies]

[Excerpt] Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] supporters in the territories are demanding representation in a Palestinian delegation to an Israeli-Palestinian dialogue proportionate to the fundamentalist movement's backing among the Palestinians in West Bank and Gaza.

"I don't think that 10 percent is a fair representation for the movement in the proposed (Palestinian) delegation to the dialogue," Dr. Mahmud al-Zuhar, a Hamas supporter in Gaza, told THE JERUSALEM POST earlier this week. "If the recent press reports that the Islamic movement has the support of 30 percent of the population are correct, this fact should be reflected in such a delegation."

Criticizing the home arrest recently imposed on Faysal al-Husayni, Al-Zuhar said that if Israel really wanted to promote the peace process, it should allow the Palestinians to contact each other and negotiate among themselves.

In an interview last month, Al-Zuhar said that the fundamentalist movement would take part in the elections for a Palestinian council in the territories, if such election took place.

Al-Zuhar, who was detained for five months earlier this year, has met, together with other Gazan notables, with Defence Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and with officials in the Gaza Civil Administration. THE JERUSALEM POST has learned that he has apparently become acceptable to

Israeli decision-makers, who now realize that fundamentalist representation in a Palestinian delegation to the dialogue is unavoidable. [passage omitted]

'Official Contacts' With Czechoslovakia Launched

TA1312115289 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 13 Dec 89 pp 1, 2

[Report by Europe-based correspondent Sha'ul Ben-Hayim]

[Excerpt] Israel and Czechoslovakia have launched official contacts with the aim of establishing relations between Jerusalem and Prague. Ambassador Mordekhay Paltzur, the head of the Israeli Interests Office in Poland, has spent the past 2 days in Prague where he conferred with a representative of the foreign minister and the head of one of the branches of the Czech Foreign Ministry.

"These were preliminary discussions," MA'ARIV was told yesterday by Jan Martinek, the director of the Czech Foreign Ministry Press Department. "It is possible that consulates will be established in the initial stage. Naturally, we wish to see the establishment of mutual diplomatic relations at the end of the process. We believe that the preliminary process will end in a relatively short period."

"The past 2 days' meetings are, in fact, the continuation of past contacts," Martinek said. "This time we also discussed possible cooperation on tourism or technology between the two countries."

Already during the time of the previous tough regime in Prague, Czech diplomats closely monitored the development of the reestablishment of relations between Jerusalem and Warsaw, Budapest, and even Moscow. The Czech Foreign Ministry has maintained that the nonexistence of ties with Israel advances none of the Czech interests. According to Martinek "the initiative of both sides to open the dialogue brings us closer to the center of matters in the Middle East."

Paltzur arrived in Prague 2 days ago. He was received by an official representative at the airport, and a limousine was placed at his disposal for the whole duration of his visit. During his stay in Prague, Paltzur met with Deputy Foreign Minister Jaromir Nehera, and with Vaclav Jazdenyi, the director of the Fifth Department, who is also in charge of Middle Eastern affairs.

The Israeli representative received the impression that Czechoslovakia is interested in opening a serious dialogue with Israel, but that a final position and timetable will be slated only after the new foreign minister, Jiri Dienstbier, assumes his position. [passage omitted]

Knesset Rejects No-Confidence Motions

TA1312133189 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 13 Dec 89

[Text] The Knesset has voted down the no-confidence in the government motions submitted by the Tehiya and Moledet factions over Foreign Minister Moshe Arens' expected departure for Washington. Twenty-eight Knesset members [MK's] voted against the motion, two supported it, and eight MK's abstained.

Our correspondent Ze'ev Kohen points out that at the time of the vote no Tehiya MK's were present in the hall, while the only representative of the Moledet faction present was MK Rehav'am Ze'evi.

Jerusalem Court Acquits Hebron Settler Levinger

TA1312002689 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 2030 GMT 13 Dec 89

[Excerpt] The Jerusalem Magistrate Court today acquitted Rabbi Moshe Levinger [prominent leader of Hebron settlers] on charges of attacking three Hebron Arabs and insulting an IDF soldier. Levinger was accused of entering the home of an Arab family after his daughter had complained that Arab children had verbally abused her. Justice Yo'el Tzur stated that he did not believe members of the Arab family, who claimed Levinger beat them. As for the soldier, the justice ruled that because he was manning an observation post during the incident, interfering in the affairs within an Arab family's home was not within his duties. Therefore, the rabbi's remarks contained no insult against a public official on duty.

Cornerstone Laid at Permanent Settlement Site

TA1212163889 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 12 Dec 89

[Text] The cornerstone for the permanent site of the settlement of Ma'ale 'Amos was laid today. Interior Minister Arye Der'i participated in the ceremony and was accorded honorary citizenship by the head of the Gush 'Ezyon Regional Council. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that during the first stage the Construction and Housing Ministry will build 30 units in the area, followed by another 40. Preferred mortgage terms were offered to the settlers.

U.S. Reportedly To Build Embassy in Jerusalem

JN1412104489 Amman AKHBAR AL-USBU' in Arabic 14 Dec 89 pp 1, 23

[Text] Amman—[Former] Jerusalem Mayor Rawhi al-Khatib has confirmed to AKHBAR AL-USBU' the report published in the new edition of the magazine AL-QUDS AL-SHARIF—a report which also reached Senator Akram Zu'aytir, chief of the Jordanian Royal Committee for Jerusalem Affairs—that an agreement has been signed between the U.S. Government and the Israeli military occupation authorities to construct a building to house the U.S. Embassy in holy Jerusalem on land belonging to the Islamic Awqaf Council.

AL-QUDS AL-SHARIF has published a verbatim translation of the clauses of this dangerous project. Thus, the U.S. actions, reflected in Baker's five-point proposal, in U.S. instructions for its ambassador to Tunisia to make contacts with the PLO, and in giving the Arabs the impression the United States is determined to find a solution to the Middle East crisis, only are a farce.

The UN, on the other hand, does not recognize any Israeli presence in Jerusalem or the Israeli claim Jerusalem is the capital of Israel. Since the [1947] Partition Resolution, no respectable country of the world dared transfer its embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. The United States always has rejected Israeli requests to transfer its embassy to Jerusalem. The United States also has refused to recognize the annexation of Jerusalem and make it a united capital of the occupying Israeli State.

The clauses of the agreement show the 10-dunam piece of land, which belongs to Islamic Awqaf, has been rented by the United States from Israel for a period of 99 years in return for only $1 per dunam annually. Clause 2/5 of the agreement reads: Under this agreement, the U.S. Government agrees to transfer all rights of ownership and other rights related to the estate—that is, the land situated in al-Barkun Street No 71, including all buildings and nonmovable additions—to the full ownership of Israel. Israel has the right to sell it to other parties after the expiration of the 99 years.

AKHBAR AL-USBU' also has learned the Jordanian Government, represented by the Foreign Ministry, has informed the Arab League of this grave issue. The Jordanian Government also maintained contacts with the U.S. Government through diplomatic channels to learn from it the objects of this project, which is not in line with the UN resolutions that do not acknowledge Israel's annexation of Jerusalem or recognize Jerusalem as a capital of the occupation state.

Hasan Conveys King's Message to President Bush

JN1412073089 Amman Television Service in English 2000 GMT 13 Dec 89

[Text] U.S. President George Bush received at the White House this morning His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan, who conveyed to President Bush a message from his majesty the king. The message deals with the current situation in the Middle East and the efforts being made to reach a just and comprehensive settlement in the region in light of the changes currently taking place in the world and their impact on the Middle East, particularly on the Palestinian issue. His royal highness briefed President Bush on Jordan's assessment of the peace process currently underway and on the international efforts made to reach the desired settlement. Discussion also dealt with relations between the two countries and various issues of joint concern. President Bush asked his royal highness to convey his good wishes to his majesty the king.

Speaking to American newsmen at the White House, his royal highness said: International efforts should be pooled to stop the daily bloodletting in the occupied Arab territories resulting from Israeli practices. He pointed out that Jordan, under the leadership of his majesty the king, is permanently committed to a peaceful solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict guaranteeing the legitimate national rights of the Palestinian people.

His royal highness earlier met with Acting Secretary of State Larry Eagleburger at the State Department. They discussed the current situation in the Arab region, particularly in the occupied territories, Lebanon, and the Gulf. The two sides asserted the need for coordination between the two countries to give momentum to the peace endeavors in the region. The American official paid tribute to the efforts made by Jordan to enhance the peace process and to reach a settlement guaranteeing stability in the region.

Prince Hasan arrived in Washington last night at the start of a working visit to the United States. During the visit, he will confer with a number of senior American officials and the secretary general of the United Nations.

His royal highness is accompanied on the visit by an official delegation comprising His Majesty's Political Adviser 'Adnan Abu-'Awdah, and Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Marwan al-Qasim.

His royal highness was welcomed upon arrival at Andrews Air Force Base in Washington by the dean and members of the Arab diplomatic corps, the U.S. assistant secretary of state for Middle Eastern affairs, a number of senior administration officials, and the Jordanian ambassador in Washington and Embassy staff.

The program of the visit includes a lecture by his royal highness at the Foreign Affairs Council in Washington where he will have an open dialogue with the Council's members.

Prince Hasan will then leave for New York.

Husayn, YAR President on Talks, Other Issues

JN1312195089 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 13 Dec 89

["Full recording" of remarks to unidentified reporters by 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Yemen Arab Republic, YAR, and King Husayn of Jordan prior to Salih's departure from a Jordanian Air Force base on 13 December]

[Text] [Reporter] Your Excellency the President, how do you assess this visit and your talks with his majesty the king?

[Salih] First, it is a pleasure to visit my second homeland, Jordan, and meet with my brother His Majesty King Husayn Ibn-Talal and all officials in sisterly Jordan. My assessment is positive, as I have had the opportunity to meet with his majesty the king. We discussed many bilateral issues. Bilateral relations are distinguished, good, and special, thanks to my reciprocal meetings with my dear brother his majesty the king and all his officials. Our discussions dealt with all developments on the Arab scene, as well as international issues of mutual interest, especially the Palestine question—the Arab nation's central cause. As the intifadah begins its 3d year, we urge our people in Palestine to show further steadfastness, and we urge all our brothers in the Arab homeland to feel the suffering of this Palestinian Arab country and people. We have a common responsibility. We have to approach all international forums to urge them give positive support to the intifadah. Before I conclude my remarks, I would like to reiterate my thanks and appreciation for Jordan—king, government, and people—for the hospitality accorded to me and my Yemeni delegation.

[Reporter] Your Excellency the President, your visit to Jordan coincided with the return of parliamentary life to Jordan. In view of your talks with his majesty the king, how do you assess this experiment and the formation of the Jordanian Government?

[Salih] I am very happy with this splendid democratic step, which is a gain for Jordan and the Arab nation. Democracy is the best approach. Parliamentary representation enables the people to take part in shouldering responsibilities alongside their leaders. I was happy with this experiment, which I have followed with great interest since the election process began last month.

[Reporter] Your Excellency the President, the materialization of the great Arab dream of achieving the unity of the two Yemens has become imminent. Could you shed some light on this?

[Salih] Perhaps you have followed our historic meeting in Aden on 30 November with the brother leaders of the southern part of Yemen. We discussed all steps to reunite the Yemeni people, who are one nation divided into two countries by colonialism and the imam's rule in Yemen. I saw full understanding in our southern brothers. They also are enthusiastic about achieving unity. This is a result of the masses' momentum, which makes it incumbent upon both leaderships to take a big step toward reunion. It was agreed to refer the draft unity constitution to the legislative authorities within 6 months, before finalizing it. It also was agreed to set up a committee made up of the interior ministers to prepare for the popular referendum on the draft constitution. Afterward, all government bodies in the two parts of the Yemen can merge.

[Reporter] You have opened the door wide for democracy in Jordan. You have taken many measures to rearrange the Jordanian house. Can this be termed a Jordanian perestroika?

[Husayn] I do not know what you may call it, but I believe we have made broad strides on the path we always have wished to follow. We all are optimistic this part of the greater Arab homeland will be an example for our brothers in our Arab homeland and a factor of strength in Arab existence. We are following the path specified by our fathers and grandfathers, seeking to achieve integrity and unity in the greater homeland. I pray God will grant us success in performing our duty toward the next generations.

[Reporter] Within this framework, to what extent are you prepared to tolerate a fundamentalist opposition in the House of Representatives? Are you considering launching the freedom of political organizations publicly within the framework of a front or a charter?

[Husayn] First, I do not believe there is an opposition for the sake of opposition. There is participation in the House of Representatives by the sons of the Jordanian family in drawing the features of the future. God be praised, we are optimistic about the future. The promise I made consisted of two parts. The first was to hold the elections. This has been done. The second part is related to the national charter. We hope there will be an opportunity for a representative group of the people's various sectors to cooperate in drafting this charter, which will be put to a direct vote by the people so they can express their opinion. Afterward, we naturally will be able to move to a second stage in our life concerning the freedom of organizations based on respect for the constitution and within the framework of the charter, which we hope will be decided soon by the people, who are source of authority.

[Reporter] What is your majesty's comment on Shamir's remarks on Jordan as an alternative homeland for the Palestinians?

[Husayn] First of all, the issue is that of Palestinian Arab rights over national Palestinian soil. Since its establishment, this country has aimed at maintaining the Arabism of this land. God be praised, this country was excluded from the land on which the Jews were to establish their state. The question that frequently has come across my mind during my lifetime is: Is this land worth getting killed for in the defense of its every inch

and in defense of its Arabism, while defending the greater Arab homeland? Simply stated, the answer is yes. We know what our enemies' schemes are. We acted once, and the West bank was liberated. It is hoped the solution will be achieved through the restoration of the Palestinian people's full rights over the national soil under the PLO, their sole, legitimate representative. We oppose all attempts to deny these people's rights over their soil. Naturally, we stand on the longest line of confrontation to defend this country with all our potential and capabilities, not merely in self-defense, but to defend the entire Arab homeland.

[Reporter] Your Majesty the King, there is a new Jordanian initiative on the European and American scenes through the messages conveyed by His Highness Crown Prince Hasan to Mitterrand and today to Bush. Would your majesty give us an idea of these messages and their content?

[Husayn] The messages deal with the situation in the region and the hotbeds in this part of the world. They also stress the need for interest in our issues. This is a part of the dialogue we are holding with world leaders. I entrusted him with conveying my remarks and questions. We hope he soon will return successfully with satisfactory answers.

Husayn Sees YAR President Off After Visit

JN1312161289 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1450 GMT 13 Dec 89

[Text] Amman, 13 Dec (PETRA)—His Excellency President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Yemen Arab Republic (YAR), left Jordan this afternoon concluding an official 2-day visit, during which he talked with His Majesty King Husayn on bilateral relations, progress in the Arab Cooperation Council, and the appropriate means to push forward peace efforts in the region.

The two leaders also talked about the Palestine question, the Lebanese crisis, and the latest developments in the Iraq-Iran situation.

His Majesty King Husayn headed those seeing the YAR president off upon his departure from one of the air bases. The prime minister, chief of the Royal Hashemite Court, chief of the general staff, commander of the Royal Jordanian Air Force, commander of the base and ranking officers, and the Yemeni ambassador in Amman also were there.

The Yemeni president was bid farewell amid the cheers of the base's personnel, who expressed joy over the Arab Cooperation Council's march.

The base's personnel also formed dance circles, chanted hails and cheers, and sang folk songs.

Palestinian-Syrian Clash Reported in South

NC1412091289 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0825 GMT 14 Dec 89

[Text] According to information given to Voice of Lebanon about the clash that took place in the al-Awwali area on Sidon's northern entrance at dawn today, a Palestinian force belonging to the pro-'Arafat Fatah, estimated at 150 troops, took off from 'Ayn al-Hulwah camp at approximately 0230 today. The Palestinian force attacked a Syrian forces command post at 0300 from al-Awwali area, which is located about 5 km from 'Ayn al-Hulwah camp.

The reports add that the Palestinian attackers broke into the 3- story building of the Syrian forces command post and clashed with the Syrian soldiers for 2 hours, using machine guns, 107-mm flat-trajectory artillery, and B-10 and B-7 rockets.

The attackers were able to break into the post. A number of people were killed, including 3 from the Nasirite Popular Organization, and 15 others were wounded according to preliminary information.

The reports say that the fate of Colonel Ziyad, commander of the Syrian post is still unknown, while the death of his aide Major 'Ali has been confirmed.

Consequently, the Syrian army brought in additional troops to the area, with vehicular support. These preparations indicate the possibility of a military action in the area.

REUTER cited security sources in Sidon as saying that Lebanese and Palestinian gunmen clashed with Syrian troops in southern Lebanon at dawn today and that the clash resulted in 6 people killed and 10 others wounded. The agency added that the gunmen attacked the Syrian troops manning a checkpoint on the coastal road, 1.5 km north of Sidon.

The same sources said the identity of the groups, which took part in the attack at 0300, was not immediately known. The two sides clashed for 3 hours with anti-armor bombs and machine guns.

According to security sources, three of the dead belong to the popular Liberation Army led by Mustafa Sa'd. It is not yet known whether the Popular Liberation Army took part in the battle. It is known, however, that Palestinian groups, including the Fatah Movement, have positions in the Sidon area.

Islamic parties and forces in Sidon called on all sectors to stage a strike to denounce the incident.

A meeting has been held at the Nasirite Popular Organization headquarters since this morning between the security leaders in the area to contain the repercussions of the incident.

Further on Palestinian Attack

NC1412092589 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0905 GMT 14 Dec 89

[Text] An urgent meeting was held at the Nasirite Popular Organization [NPO] headquarters in Sidon this morning. Present were Minister of Economy Dr Nazih al-Bizr, Dr Usamah Sa'd, and key nationalist and Islamic figures. The conferees discussed the causes that sparked off the security incident near Jisr al-Awwali at dawn today. The incident left 6 people dead, including 3 NPO members, and 10 others wounded. A general strike will be observed in Sidon today to protest the incident.

The NPO issued a statement accusing one of the main Palestinian factions of launching an attack on the Popular Liberation Army position in the al-Awwali area and of launching another attack on a Syrian forces' position in al-Rumaylah.

Nasirite Group Issues Statement

NC1412111889 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1000 GMT 14 Dec 89

[Text] Contacts on all levels are continuing to contain the aftermath of the sinful attack on positions held by the Syrian Arab army and the Nasirite Popular Organization [NPO] at the approach to 'Alman area near Sidon at dawn today.

An NPO source has issued a statement saying that a position held by the Popular Liberation Army [PLA] on Jisr al-Awwali was attacked by a large Palestinian force which had earlier attacked a position held by the Syrian army in al-Rumaylah. Three PLA members were martyred and 15 others wounded in the attack.

The NPO source added: This incident constitutes a major violation of the nationalist arena, the nationalist efforts, and the nationalist logic. The Palestinian decisionmaking party is responsible for this violation. This violation necessitates the discussion of the coatal road issue because it is impermissible for a security vacuum and outrageous acts by evildoers to continue on this road beween Khaldah and al-Awwali. Either nationalist forces should be deployed on both sides of the road so as to fill the vacuum, or the Syrian forces should return and resume their role along the road.

Details of Attack Given

NC1412112789 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1015 GMT 14 Dec 89

[Text] AFP reported that about 50 armed men attacked the Syrian intelligence genral headquarters in Southern Lebanon at dawn today and that at least 4 people were killed and 19 others, including many Syrian soldiers, were wounded as a result.

The agency said the attack occured in al-Rumaylah town, 37 km south of Beirut and that the armed men managed

to flee toward Sidon, which groups the largest Palestinian population in Lebanon.

Citing security sources, the agency added that four Syrian soldiers were wounded in the attack and that a Syrian officer is missing. As they withdrew, the gunmen clashed with personnel manning a Nasirite Popular Organization [NPO] barricade on the entrance to Sidon. The clash left 3 NPO men dead and 15 others wounded, according to NPO sources.

The same sources said a Lebanese Communist Party member was killed in the party's barracks in al-Rumaylah and that it is not yet known whether the assailants sustained any casualties.

Security sources said that the armed men attacked the Syrian forces command headquarters in al-Rumaylah and were able to enter it after wounding its four guards. Then the attackers blew up the building, with the officer, regarded as missing, inside. It is not known whether the officer was killed or taken hostage.

Syrian Officer Denies Death Reports

NC1412124089 (Clandestine) Voice of the People in Arabic to Lebanon 1130 GMT 14 Dec 89

[Excerpts] According to AFP, around 50 gunmen attacked the Syrian forces command post in al-Rumaylah at 0300 today. While these gunmen were retreating toward Sidon, they clashed with a Nasirite Popular Organization [NPO] position.

In a statement to the Voice of the People just a short time ago, Colonel Ziyad, commander of the Syrian forces in the area, said: In the confrontation with the agent and hired gunmen—the gangs of 'Arafat—and in denial of the reports by some suspicious media organs about the death of Major 'Ali and the unknown fate of Col Ziyad, we deny the report and confirm that none of our soldiers were injured and that the attackers suffered heavy losses in life and material after being repelled. [passage omitted]

The National Lebanese Front issued a statement on the attack a little later. It said: At dawn today, armed groups belonging to the Fatah Movement—the 'Arafat group and to supporters of the Iraqi regime in Lebanon launched a treacherous attack on the national Lebanese forces' positions and the Syrian Arab forces in the al-Awwali river—the 'Alam-al-Rumaylah junction. Comrade Mahmud Jalal, member of the Lebanese Communist Party's Central Committee and member of the Central Military Command, and three comrades from the NPO—'Adnan 'Urabi, Khalil Muhyi-al-Din, and Riyad Rafful—were martyred as a result of the attack. A number of national front members and Syrian Arab soldiers were also injured.

The statement added: The Lebanese national and Islamic forces, the Palestinian organizations, and national Lebanese public opinion have roundly and comprehensively denounced this criminal action. It came only few hours before the meeting of the Arab ministerial committee with PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat and at a time when all the forces that want to ensure Lebanon's unity are confronting the state of insubordination that is represented by Michel 'Awn and his gang in order to eliminate this state and enable Lebanon to restore its unity and independence as a democratic country. It also came at a time when the Palestinian and Lebanese masses are marking the 3d anniversary of the intifadah and at a time when action is under way and with all available means to unite the ranks of the national Lebanese and Palestinian forces, Syria, and all the forces of the Arab liberation movement to ensure the best possible support for the intifadah, strengthen its position and role, and develop its struggle.

The statement said: The national Lebanese front considers this cowardly criminal attack to be directed against it, against all its groups, and against the national Lebanese resistance that is heroically confronting the Israeli occupation and repeated aggressions in the south and against the Palestinian camps. It calls on the Lebanese masses to rally around their national leaderships in the struggle against all actions that serve the Zionist enemy and the partitionist movement inside which is linked to that enemy. It also calls on the Palestinian masses and the honest Palestinian forces and organizations to stand alongside the patriotic Lebanese masses in denunciation of this action, to take all the measures that would prevent a repetition of such an act, to punish its perpetrators, and to exert utmost efforts to strengthen and entrench the relations of struggle between the Lebanese and Palestinian peoples and fraternal Syria in order to put an end to all actions directed against this alliance, regardless of the side they are on.

'Arrangements' for New Year Hostage Release Cited

PM1312170589 London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic 15 Dec 89 p 8

[Unattributed report: "Hostages To Be Released Soon"]

[Text] Diplomatic sources have told AL-HAWADITH that the New Year holiday will bring positive surprises regarding the hostages in Lebanon.

The sources emphasized that they had information referring to the "completion of arrangements" for the release of a number of "hostages," especially Americans.

Al-Huss Denies Intention To Expand Government

NC1312155189 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 13 Dec 89

[Text] In an interview with QNA [Qatar News Agency], Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss has denied any intention to expand the current government to include representatives of General Michel 'Awn and the Lebanese Forces. Prime Minister al-Huss said he is maintaining daily contact with the Arab tripartite committee. He noted that the French stance has recently become clear

and frank. He expressed hope that it will remain so and take the form of assistance to Lebanon to enable it to surmount the current critical stage.

Prime Minister al-Huss that the partitionist phenomenon which is led by former army commander Michel 'Awn is unnatural a..d must be eliminated as soon as possible. He pointed out that the legitimate Lebanese authority has numerous political and peaceful weapons that can be used against the condition of partition which confronts Lebanon. He added that confronting this partitionist condition must be done by concerted governmental action. He announced: This is the basis on which we are currently working.

Sa'adah on New Government, Party Position

LD1412110989 Kuwait KUNA in English 1000 GMT 14 Dec 89

[Text] Kuwait, Dec 14 (KUNA)—Phalange Party leader George Sa'adah has said that his party has not decided [as received] to take part in the government of Premier Salim al-Huss, saying there are more important issues than participation in the government.

In an interviehw with "AL-WATAN" daily in Paris, published here Thursday, Sa'adah elaboration [as received] on his party's position toward legitimacy, Gen. 'Awn and Lebanese forces.

He described his party's position toward Gen. 'Awn as saying "we were with 'Awn when he was the head of the government and did not recognize any legitimacy other than his".

He added "but now, after election of President Ilyas al-Hirawi, he became the head of the legitimacy and the government he formed is considered by us the legitimate government".

Sa'adah denied current press reports on relations between his party and Israel, saying that was over.

U.S. Sources Cited on 'Use of Force' Option

NC1312145789 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1230 GMT 13 Dec 89

[Text] Reflecting the increased concern in U.S. official circles, U.S. sources have said that if Michel 'Awn could not be persuaded within a short time to abdicate by peaceful means, then the use of force may become the only option. The sources said: No one can guarantee that force will not be used if 'Awn does not step down.

The well-informed U.S. sources criticized the illusions which some Lebanese parties entertain regarding France, saying: We do not think that in the case of renewed violence France will intervene to save them. They are deceiving themselves.

The U.S. sources said that they take President Ilyas al-Hirawi's threat to resign seriously, adding that in the event of al-Hirawi's resignation, the military option will be virtually unavoidable. The sources mentioned that Syria is not enthusiastic about military intervention.

In reply to a question about the attempts to amend al-Ta'if agreement, the U.S. sources said: I [as heard] think that the Christians have obtained the best possible deal in al-Ta'if. The sources added: Have the Maronites not learned anything from their long past?

Decision To Abolish Passports Reportedly Made

NC1312154889 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1445 GMT 13 Dec 89

[Text] It was reported today that a decision was made in Ablah on Thursday abolishing all Lebanese passports and introducing a new application form for them that is completely different from the one currently in use. Well-informed source noted the negative repercussions such a decision could have for East Beirut inhabitants.

Al-Huss Returns After Visit to Damascus

NC1312202989 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2015 GMT 13 Dec 89

[Text] Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss returned to Beirut this evening after a lightning visit to Damascus during which he met with Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam.

Fadlallah Comments on Assassination Attempt

NC1312190789 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 13 Dec 89

[Text] Hizballah spiritual guide Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah has viewed the attempt to assassinate him as part of what he called the country's general political course. He said: I was targeted for assassination by more than one international, Arab, and local party. We think that there is a tradition in the Lebanese conflict which dictates that if war stops, the assassination of some influential public and political figures takes place to promote, complete, or create new conditions which could reshuffle the cards.

Intifadah Support Conference Opens in Beirut

NC1212192689 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 12 Dec 89

[Text] The second conference on supporting the Islamic intifadah in occupied Palestine was held at the Bristol Hotel in Beirut today. A number of officials and political and spiritual leaders delivered speeches stressing the importance of unity, concerted efforts, and mobilizing resources to confront the Zionist onslaught against the Arab and Islamic worlds.

The speakers also praised the heroic role of the Palestinian intifadah in the occupied territory as the only way to defeat the Israeli enemy and to regain the usurped lands. The speakers also maintained that the Islamic resistance and the Lebanese national resistance in the

south complement the Palestinian intifadah in the occupied territory, and said this demands that support be offered to the resistance and the intifadah to achieve Islamic, national, and pan-Arab aims.

Israel Provides SLA With Tanks, Minesweepers

NC1412113189 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1015 GMT 14 Dec 89

[Text] The Israeli Army has supplied South Lebanese Army [SLA] with Soviet-made tanks and minesweepers. The Middle East television said Israel captured these tanks from Syria in 1982.

One Lahdist Killed, Another Wounded in South

NC1412120489 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 14 Dec 89

[Text] In the steadfast south, an agent Lahd militia member was killed and another wounded at dawn today, when national resistance men detonated an explosive charge on the 'Alma-al-Sha'b road in al-Battishah as the two men's vehicle was passing by.

Egyptian Transport Delegation Arrives in Damascus

JN1212184289 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 12 Dec 89

[Text] An Egyptian Boeing-737 passenger plane arrived at the Damascus International Airport at 1640 today carrying a delegation of 77 persons led by Major General Samir Rashad, assistant minister of transport, communications, and maritime transport for aviation affairs, on the first flight between Cairo and Damascus. The delegation was received at the airport by Major General 'Adnan al-Jabi, director general of Syrian Arab Airlines; the assistant transport minister; and senior officials of Syrian Arab Airlines.

Maj Gen Samir Rashad expressed deep satisfaction with the reopening of air transportation between Cairo and Damascus. He added this positive step will reinforce the close and brotherly relations between the Egyptian and Syrian peoples. He added Egypt Air will schedule three direct travels a week between Cairo and Damascus.

Maj Gen 'Adnan al-Jabi, director general of the Syrian Arab Airlines, also expressed his happiness at the resumption of air travel between Damascus and Cairo, saying flights by Syrian Arab Airlines will start from Damascus to Cairo. He added this step will reflect positively on the interests and progress of the two fraternal peoples. He also said the competent committees of Syrian Arab Airline and Egypt Air will start meeting tomorrow to discuss the opening of airline offices in Damascus and Cairo, as well as aspects of trade and tourist cooperation between the two companies.

Syrian Flight Takes Transport Delegation to Cairo

JN1312170089 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 13 Dec 89

[Text] Damascus—A Syrian Boeing 727 left Damascus this afternoon for Cairo on the first trip between Syria and Egypt. On board was a delegation from the Ministry of Transport and the country's media institutions headed by Mr Munir Jayrudi, assistant minister of transport for civil aviation affairs.

This step between the two fraternal countries comes within the framework of contacts between the two political leaderships in Cairo and Damascus seeking to resume flights to promote fraternal ties between the two countries.

The first Egyptian plane landed at Damascus International Airport yesterday evening with a delegation of 77 people on board, headed by the assistant Egyptian transport minister for aviation affairs.

The plane left Damascus airport at 2100.

Cabinet Discusses Lebanese, Other Conflicts

JN1212145489 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 12 Dec 89

[Text] The cabinet held a session at 1000 today under Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi. A general political review was conducted on the latest developments concerning Lebanon, the Arab-Israeli conflict, and certain international events. The cabinet also discussed topics on its agenda and made appropriate decisions.

Palestinian, Lebanese Detainees Said Released

JN1312145889 Kuwait AL-ANBA' in Arabic 11 Dec 89 p 1

[By Fatimah Mansur]

[Text] AL-ANBA' has learned a number of Palestinian and Lebanese detainees have been released from Syrian jails following the mediation of Lebanese Minister Nabih Birri with Syrian officials. AL-ANBA' also has learned Birri is continuing efforts with Syrian officials to secure the release of the rest of the Palestinian and Lebanese detainees.

Meanwhile, responsible Palestinian sources have assured AL-ANBA' the PLO now has good relations with Minister Nabih Birri and other officials in various Lebanese organizations, as well as with officials in the Lebanese Government.

The sources indicated the Syrian officials had told the mediators the release of the rest of the Palestinian detainees might take place after a Palestinian delegation's visit to Syria expected at the end of this month.

AL-BA'TH Says 'No Compromise' in Lebanon

JN1412083989 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0545 GMT 14 Dec 89

[Press review]

[Text] Under the headline "There Can Be No Compromise With the Rebellion," AL-BA'TH stresses in its editorial that although no one in the vicinity of Lebanon wants to see bloodshed or destruction in any part of the country, those who have evil designs on Lebanon instigate 'Awn to continue his rebellion, disobedience, usurpation of power, and perpetration of the most horrible crimes against the Lebanese. AL-BA'TH adds: Those who backed 'Awn have not and never will achieve their purposes, since these are impossible to achieve and conflict with the will of the Lebanese, who adhere to the progress of their country, the unity of its land and people, and the continuation of its Arab identity and pan-Arab affiliation.

AL-BA'TH concludes: Lebanon's constitution and laws, and every legitimate thing in Lebanon, are against 'Awn and his rebellion. When a legitimate authority shares power with a rebellion, it loses its legitimacy. There can

be no compromise with the rebellion; silence on the rebellion and insurgence is impossible if Lebanon is to be unified with one president, one army, and one army commander. Legitimate Lebanese authorities will not accept the continuation of this bizarre situation under any circumstances. There can be no coexistence with partition and no bargain or compromise with rebellion and disobedience. The homeland is for complete legitimacy, not for the killers or butchers—the enemies of the people, the future, and destiny.

Under the headline "The Flood of Reconciliation," AL-THAWRAH stresses 'Awn's case, in its current shape, is a pure Israeli creation, absolutely rejected by the area 'Awn is trying to control, terrorize, and dispose with as he pleases. The general, who lacks everything except his betrayal and conspiratory role, cannot—with his henchmen, backers, and those who stimulate his bizarre motives—stand for long in front of the sweeping current of reconciliation, which now has its legitimate institution. The Lebanese are rallying around this institution, and there is Arab consensus on supporting the reconciliation document, which also enjoys unequivocal world support.

AL-THAWRAH concludes by stressing the Lebanese clearly are willing to make serious, rapid efforts to achieve reconciliation and stability. The legitimate authority is clear, open, and firm in adhering to its right and role, which no one can dispute. The popular will, which constitutes the basis of the legitimate authority's determination to expedite the implementation of the reconciliation document, can put an end to the bizarre situation and uproot its creators. 'Awn will not be able to confront, by his illusions, the facts of the reconciliation, its legitimacy, and the serious endeavor to achieve it. Syria continues to stand with the Lebanese people as it always has done; it supports Lebanon's reconciliation and national solution. Syria will continue to supprt the legitimate Lebanese authorities, not hesitating to make every effort and provide all help to achieve reconciliation and save Lebanon from the most serious plot against its existence and future.

Under the headline "The Arab Solution and the Impossible Gambles," TISHRIN says the tripartite Arab committee stressed during its visits to Paris and Rome that it seeks to establish peace in Lebanon in line with the Arab will to resolve the crisis. The paper adds: The moves of the committee thus mainly are Arab moves. Consequently, stances vis-a-vis these moves, whether positive or negative, are stances toward the entire Arab nation. TISHRIN stresses the Lebanese people and the legitimate authority agreed to give diplomatic efforts a full chance to evade further destruction. This, however, never means perpetuation of the fait accompli. TISHRIN concludes: The Arab solution has foiled all gambles and illusions by some quarters that they could regain a lost role. It thus has become clear there is no alternative to the unity of Arab Lebanon—land, people, and institutions—and there is no alternative to foiling all wagers on the possibility of entrenching partition or regaining an influence crushed by the struggle of the masses.

Commentary Views Value of Arab Unity, Solidarity

JN1312150889 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 13 Dec 89

[Station commentary]

[Text] Dear listeners: In the confrontation with the dangers facing our Arab nation and the threat posed by the Zionist scheme, Syria always has been the most eager to devote Arab resources, make available Arab potential, and strengthen and unite Arab ranks to troubleshoot and deter the dimensions of these dangers and threats.

Syria always has been first to call for unity and solidarity; Syria—leaders and people—always has been a symbol of sacrifice and giving for the sake of unity and solidarity. Through unity and solidarity alone we can avert the dangers and cut short the onslaught and its multifaceted schemes. In the absence of unity and solidarity, our Zionist enemy—and before this enemy, the colonialist forces united against our nation—were able to deal blows, inflict defeats, and undermine steadfastness and confrontation. The well-known divide and rule policy was followed and practiced. The consequences are too many to list; we lived them, suffered their fire, and tasted—we still are tasting—their bitterness. The fabricated battles exhausted our nation in many arenas, particularly in the most delicate arenas most exposed to dangers; that is, the confrontation line.

Since an arena will be affected by what is taking place in another arena, the problems affected every home. Iraq's fabricated war with Iran has pained us, and consequently hindered our confrontation with the Israeli enemy and its schemes. Another thing paining us is the preoccupation by certain other Arab countries with crises or differences diverting them from the real crisis that results from the confrontation with the enemy. We also were shaken by the conspiratorial scheme the Zionists are trying to implement in Lebanon through their tools to divide, fragment, and turn it into a weak point—a gap in the Arab flank, the alert Arab steadfastness shield.

The Zionist enemy was able to infiltrate the Lebanese arena through agent tools divorced from the will of the people and nation. Through these tools, the Zionist enemy wants to entrench fragmentation and division and abort the aspirations for unity and solidarity.

The Arabs' path toward the peace they seek will become strong and united in policy and action. These are the words of President Hafiz al-Asad, which express a real understanding of all the dangers that surround the Arabs and the Arab cause. As his excellency said, unity is the most important factor of strength. Through the achievement of unity, we embody our own selves and achieve our unity. Syria's belief in unity is deep-rooted and cannot be shaken by a transient setback. The unity of the

Arab nation is a natural law; it is a pressing need resulting from the circumstances surrounding us, the dangers threatening us, and the schemes the enemy is pursuing. Today we are in urgent need of unity and solidarity. The happiness expressed by the Arab Egyptians on their arrival in Damascus to end the estrangement and the similar happiness expressed by our Syrian Arab people are an expression of the feeling of strength and a glimmer of hope to unite the confrontation and strengthen the will to continue the struggle until we defeat the conspiracy and achieve victory.

Assembly on Citizens' Responsibilities, Law

JN1312212489 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 13 Dec 89

[Text] The People's Assembly conducted a session this evening chaired by Assembly Speaker 'Abd-al-Qadir Qaddurah in the presence of Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi; Mahmud Qaddur, deputy prime minister for services affairs; Dr Salim Yasin, deputy prime minister for economic affairs; and other ministers.

In this session, the assembly continued discussion of the request made by Mrs Wafa' Sannin and her colleagues about looking after and preserving public property and abiding by the law and regulations.

A number of members spoke on the subject. They pointed out the laws define what acts are considered crimes and spell out the penalty imposed to deter anyone who might misappropriate public or private funds, since this violation is an attack on the security of the society.

They said public property belongs to all citizens; therefore, it is our duty to safeguard it. Looking after public property is a civilized and humanitarian thing to do. They pointed out our constitution provides for three powers, one of which is the judiciary, whose tasks are to dispense justice, apply the law, and punish violators.

The members added: For us to reach a developed and progressive stage, we should live in a high state of awareness, making us capable of giving, sacrificing, and bearing responsibility, without hesitation or failure in a situation in which performance is manifested practically, developmentally, and morally, in any position or realm in life. We should resist the spread of neglect and apathy, which come from people whose morals are deficient and who do not care about their national and social duties—even their personal duties—totally ignoring the ideals and values set, accepted, and provided for by society's laws and norms.

They gave examples on some negative things, such as smuggling, which harms the economy and the morals of some citizens, despite the fact no society is free of such phenomena. However, we care about our society being free of such things to safeguard the coming generations and perpetuate Arab values and moral standards, proceeding from the principle that upright morals are the source of assets and the pillar to continue building the homeland and the nation. Whoever loses his morals loses himself.

They affirmed what leader Al-Asad said: The country does not need institutions only in name. What it needs is for everyone to practice their full responsibility and not remain silent about mistakes anywhere, anytime.

They pointed out with great pride the achievements of our struggling homeland under the Corrective Movement and Al-Asad's leadership. Leadership which has set sound bases for building a modern country and progressive institutions. This should not blind us from seeing some of the faults that distort this constructive and victorious march, in which the hand of development has spread everywhere. It has spread to every nook and cranny, to every field: the economic, political, social, philosophical, defensive, and other similar fields for construction and strong foundations.

The members of the People's Assembly stressed the need to determine where faults lie and to learn the ways to combat and cure them in any way possible, foremost of which is instilling national awareness, moral and educational direction, starting with the home, then the street, the school, the factory, the farm, and on to anywhere two people congregate.

The members noted many laws should be amended or adapted to accompany the civilized development experienced by our country since the revolution, especially after the Corrective Movement. They gave many examples of laws concerning these issues, one of which is the penalty law, which should be strictly applied. They also touched on the need to develop the judiciary and judicial authority to propel this authority forward so it may possess full and renewable authority to perform its duties and privileges in the easiest way possible and in the shortest possible time.

Afghanistan

Official Meets Pakistani Trade Union Delegation

LD1212221189 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0415 GMT 12 Dec 89

[Text] Kabul, Dec. 11, BAKHTAR—Najmuddin Kawiani, member of the Politburo and secretary of the Central Committee of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan "PDPA CC" met with the delegation of the Pakistani Federation of Trade Unions on Dec 10th in Kabul.

During the meeting, Najmuddin Kawiani informed the Pakistani delegation on the political-military situation of the country.

The sides discussed matters related to friendly relations existed between the peoples of Afghanistan-Pakistan, need of ending war as well as stopping interferences in the internal affairs of Afghanistan. They emphasized that the cessation of war is in the interests of the peoples of the two countries.

Also, during the meeting, the guest delegation expressed the support of its federation from the policy of national reconciliation and peaceful proposals of the state of the Republic of Afghanistan.

The Pakistani delegation had arrived to Kabul on Dec 7, 1989 at the invitation of the Central Council of the Trade Unions of the Republic of Afghanistan.

'Famine-Like Conditions' in Kabul Reported

BK1412112489 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 14 Dec 89

[Text] Reports from Kabul speak of acute shortages of food and essential commodities in the city. According to MIDIA [MEDIA INFORMATION DEPARTMENT OF ISLAMIC AFGHANISTAN], most of the funds meant for provision of food and essential commodities are being diverted to armed forces and militia. This has resulted in famine-like conditions and large-scale migration of people toward liberated territories.

Mujahidin Fire 30 Rockets, Kill 9 Troops

BK1312023589 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 13 Dec 89

[Text] Reports say that the mujahidin in Afghanistan fired 30 rockets on military targets of the Kabul regime in which the director general of Qarghah military formations and the chief of staff of the 8th Division were killed. Afghan Interim Government's news agency, MIDIA [MEDIA INFORMATION DEPARTMENT OF ISLAMIC AFGHANISTAN], reports that the mujahidin also killed six members and one officer of the Kabul regime militia in a fresh attack in the (Khwaja Musafir) region of Paghman District.

Mujahidin Operations in Paktia Province Detailed

BK1412062289 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0600 GMT 14 Dec 89

[Text] According to reports from Afghanistan, the mujahidin, in a new attack on the Khowst air base in Paktia Province, killed six officers and 24 soldiers of Kabul regime. Afghan Interim Government's news agency MIDIA [MEDIA INFORMATION DEPARTMENT OF ISLAMIC AFGHANISTAN] reports the mujahidin also destroyed a military truck and an oil tanker in which two personnel and five militiamen of the regime were killed. In one more operation in the (Gorgoray) region of the province, the mujahidin destroyed many military posts of Kabul regime.

'Extremists' Killed in Vardak Province

LD1212223589 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0521 GMT 12 Dec 89

[Text] Kabul, Dec, 11, BAKHTAR—Sixteen anti-vehicle and anti-personnel mines, four hand grenades, as well as 3 kgs explosive materials which had been hidden in Chakari area of Kabul province by the extremists have been discovered and seized during mopping up operations carried out by the security forces in the areas today, BAKHTAR military correspondent reports.

Based on another report 30 persons attached to Golbuddin and Rabbani extremist groups have been killed and tens of others wounded as a result of severe armed clashes which occurred in Vardak Province, recently.

Bangladesh

14 Die in Battle Between Police, Religious Leader

BK1312114489 Hong Kong AFP in English 1139 GMT 13 Dec 89

[Text] Dhaka, Dec 13 (AFP)—Heavily armed police seized the fortress-like home of a religious leader Wednesday in eastern Bangladesh after a 40-hour battle to free two colleagues that left at least 14 people dead, a local official said. The official said that the "fight is over and possibly the peer [pir] (religious leader) and several of his armed followers have been arrested."

Some 1,000 police cordoned off eastern Kishoreganj District's Shimulia village late Tuesday, using mortars and automatic weapons in a bid to free two police detectives held captive by the religious leader, he said.

"As far as I know two policemen and 12 followers of the saint were killed" in the battle and many injured, the official had said earlier. He said be telephoned that more people could have been killed in the siege. [sentence as received] Newspapers here said Wednesday that more than 50 people were injured in the fierce gun battle, which forced local residents to evacuate the area.

Matiur Rahman, a self-proclaimed saint and freedom fighter in Bangladesh's 1971 war of independence, has for the past several years hosted religious gatherings at his heavily fortified home in Shimulia, the official said.

Two detectives were detained there by his followers Monday after being dispatched to investigate allegations of money swindling and other financial irregularities by the religious leader, officials said. They said police used powerful weapons to raze the site of the gatherings because "we think they have underground facilities."

Government Bans Publication of Opposition Paper

BK1312011289 Hong Kong AFP in English 1758 GMT 12 Dec 89

[Text] Dhaka, Dec 12 (AFP)—The government has banned the opposition Dhaka daily DAINIK MILLAT for publishing what it labelled a "prejudicial" report, a spokesman for the newspaper said Tuesday [12 December]. He said security personnel came to the paper's downtown office late Tuesday and delivered an order from the Home Ministry asking the staff to stop publication of the vernacular daily. MILLAT is run by the opposition Freedom Party (FP) led by retired Colonel Faruq Rahman.

In the order, copies of which were released by the newspaper, the Home Ministry took issue with the headline "Not Only Hartals (general strikes) - Will Take Stronger Programmes If Needed" carried by the paper in its December 1 issue and said to contain objectionable remarks. The order, under the rigorous Special Powers Act of 1974, was effective from December 1. The report quoted retired Major Bazlul Huda, an opposition MP [member of Parliament] and senior leader of the Freedom Party.

The banning of MILLAT came a week after it first received a notice from the Home Ministry asking its editor and publisher Chowdhury Mohammad Faruq to explain why the paper should not be banned from publishing another news item. Tuesday's order also came two days after the high court, reacting to a writ petition from the editor on Sunday, asked the Home Ministry to explain within four weeks why its December 3 notice on MILLAT should not be declared unlawful.

Journalist union leaders and opposition politicians had earlier issued statements criticising the government action and calling for an immediate withdrawal of the ban.

Editor Faruq, also a Central Committee member of FP, an organisation of young, former army officers who staged Bangladesh's first military coup in 1975, was not available for comment, but a spokesman said the two-year-old paper had about 350 employees.

The DAINIK MILLAT, while not a large circulation daily, is among one of about a half-dozen opposition newspapers here.

Journalists Strike To Protest Ban

BK1312142889 Hong Kong AFP in English 1425 GMT 13 Dec 89

[Excerpts] Dhaka, Dec 13 (AFP)—Several hundred Dhaka journalists went on strike Wednesday to protest a government ban on the opposition daily DAINIK MILLAT, union sources here said. The sources said the strike would take immediate effect and no newspapers would be published Thursday when the strike is scheduled to end, adding they would stage a protest rally Thursday and announce future programs. [passage omitted]

Journalist union leaders Reazuddin Ahmed and Shahjahan Miah in a joint statement late Tuesday "condemned" the ban and said by doing so the government of President Hussain Mohammad Ershad "showed extreme intolerance (towards a free press and) also trampled the verdict of the court." They hoped that "good sense would prevail and the ban on the daily would be withdrawn." [passage omitted]

India

Congress (I) Requests Halt to Sri Lanka Pullout

BK1412113089 Hong Kong AFP in English 1115 GMT 14 Dec 89

[Excerpts] New Delhi, Dec 14 (AFP)—Former prime minister Rajiv Gandhi's Congress (I) party Thursday [14 December] urged the new government here to immediately halt the withdrawal of Indian troops from Sri Lanka.

The party's unit in southern Tamil Nadu State said the troops, deployed in Sri Lanka's northeast under a 1987 bilateral accord which sought to end Tamil separatism, should not be called back until Colombo could assure the safety of the island's Tamil minority.

The PRESS TRUST OF INDIA quoted K. Ramamurthy, chief of the party unit, as telling reporters in the Tamil Nadu capital of Madras that Prime Minister Vishwanath Pratap Singh was Thursday informed by cable of the Congress (I) request.

Mr. Ramamurthy charged that the Sri Lankan Government and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) were "operating hand in glove" to eliminate rival pro-India Tamil groups and "to exterminate thousands of innocent Tamils." He added that there had been "a marked shift" in Colombo's stance towards Sri Lankan Tamils since the victory of the centrist National Front in elections last month to a new Indian Parliament.

Mr. Ramamurthy's statements came as fighting continued for the third day Thursday in Sri Lanka's eastern Batticaloa town between the LTTE and the Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front (EPRLF). [passage omitted] Mr. Ramamurthy was quoted as saying that Indian soldiers should resume returning home only after

the EPRLF government was convinced that Colombo would ensure safety and security to the Tamils.

Tamil Nadu State lies just across the narrow Palk Strait from Sri Lanka, and is home to some 55 million Tamils sympathetic to the Sri Lankan Tamil cause.

New Administration Studying Sri Lankan Proposals

BK1212162589 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 12 Dec 89

[Text] An External Affairs Ministry spokesman has said that the government is sympathetically considering the concerns and requests put forward by the Sri Lankan foreign minister, Mr Ranjan Wijeratne, during his recent visit to Delhi. Talking to newsmen in New Delhi, the spokesman said that the response from the prime minister, Mr V.P. Singh, to the Sri Lankan proposals would be conveyed soon after a full examination of all issues involved.

Our correspondent points out that the National Front in its manifesto had made it very clear that the government would strive to secure the safety and security of Tamils in Sri Lanka and promote lasting peace and amity amongst all sections of population in the island country.

Commentary on 'Collapse' of Sri Lankan Economy

BK0312143789 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 2 Dec 89

[Commentary by S.K. Naiyer: "The Ruined Sri Lankan Economy]

[Text] Against the grim backdrop of escalating violence, the Sri Lankan economy is sliding downward alarmingly. Disruptions, stoppages, shutdowns, and closure of workplaces of government and private offices and banks due to the tactics of subversives are slowly bringing the economy to a grinding halt. Business houses now predict collapse unless the political and economic situation stabilizes and the country goes back to regular work. Shadowy unidentified forces, generally believed to be the Janata Vimukthi Peramuna [JVP—People's Liberation Front], have mounted an islandwide rebellion backed by terror, assassination, and stoppages to topple the government. In the last couple of months, a series of JVP-inspired terrorist actions forced bus transport coming to a dead halt for 1 month, the hospitals closing down completely and offices, shops and workplaces more shut than open. The JVP gives some messages across through the telephone and threatening letters and the populace complies. Defiance means death. The performance of all state-owned corporations and business houses is well below normal and there is a falling off for the export of tea, rubber, gems, ready-made garments, and petroleum products. Tourist arrivals have slowed down to a trickle and the hotels, which expanded during the pre-1983 boom, are now hard put trying to meet their loan commitments.

The domestic situation has been further compounded by a drought which has devastated the rice crop. A total of 333,426 farmer families are receiving relief from the government. This is in addition to the large numbers of families still in refugee camps due to ethnic violence. The production is suffering heavily. Disruptions, stoppages, and strikes are bringing down the country's total output. In addition, more than 3 million kg of tea have been burned by the rebels. Amid this debacle, the rupee value against the U.S. Dollar has started sliding downwards. Last August, the rupee plummeted to 40 to 1 U.S. Dollar as against rupees 36 earlier.

Meanwhile, the International Monetary Fund [IMF] has served up a bitter pill for the country's already beleaguered economy. Sri Lanka has been drawing on the Structural Adjustment Fund at 3 percent interest. The IMF stipulates that it now draw from the standby agreement by 8 to 9 percent interest. The first tranche of $40 million was given by the IMF last March, but it has withheld the next tranche of $87 million because Sri Lanka has not fulfilled certain policy guidelines laid down by the IMF. Significantly, there is an unprecedented demand for new passports, about 2,000 a day, according to the Passport Office. The exodus of the affluent is noticeably large. With schools and universities closed, rich Sri Lankans are flying their children to the west and Australia to study.

Meanwhile, the fighting in eastern Sri Lanka between the country's Army and the Tamil National Army formed by three Tamil militant groups marks a new phase in the bloody history of the island republic. Earlier, the war was between Colombo and the IPKF [Indian Peacekeeping Force] on one side and the JVP and LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] on the other. This, in turn, was a broad division and did not mean that there was peace or even common aim within the two groupings. The death in captivity of Rohana Wijeweera, leader of Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna, on 13 November has not immediately produced any backlash from the ranks of the JVP. But it is an event that is bound to have considerable political fallout in course of time in the troubled island. Will President Premadasa now try to solve the Tamil problem through military means, perhaps after the Indian Peacekeeping Force withdraws from the island completely? The president is seeking to appease the remaining hardcore members of the JVP by publicizing their animosity toward India even while asking them to surrender, as per late Wijeweera's statement. The official approval of Wijeweera's call for an end to foreign domination is also designed to convey a message to India, but the president may not presently change his mind on the IPKF pullout deadline set for 31 December.

Chinese Envoy on Economic Cooperation Prospects

BK0612124489 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 6 Dec 89

[Text] The Chinese ambassador to India, Mr Tu Guowei, has outlined possibility of setting up joint ventures and

cooperative enterprises in the two countries to develop bilateral economic relations and trade. He called for specific measures to implement the Sino-Indian trade protocol for 1989-90. Mr Guowei was speaking at a meeting in Bombay yesterday. He said trade volume has continued to grow since the resumption of direct trade between China and India in the last 2 years.

Spokesman Defends Handling of Kidnap Incident

BK1412125889 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 14 Dec 89

[Text] The Janata Dal spokesman, Mr Jaipal Reddy, has denied that the Center has compromised with terrorism in any way while securing release of Dr Rubina Sayeed [home minister's daughter who was kidnapped in Srinagar].

Replying to questions from newsmen in New Delhi today, Mr Reddy said the decision to release five extremists in exchange of Dr Rubina was taken by the state government. The central government only provided the required assistance in response to a particular situation. He further added that the approach of the National Front government cannot be judged from a single incident. He pointed out that the situation in Jammu and Kashmir had become worse in recent months as the state government functioned without having any control.

Asked if his party would favor president's rule in the state, Mr Reddy said a final view is yet to be taken on the matter.

Army Deployed To Control Violence in Kashmir

BK1412125089 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 14 Dec 89

[Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, curfew was clamped in Sopor town today following mob violence in which one person was killed in police firing. The incident occurred when a crowd turned violent and indulged in heavy stone-pelting. They also tried to set a police station on fire.

The Army has been called out to assist the civil authorities and staged a flag march in the town.

Meanwhile, a high-level meeting was convened in Srinagar today to review law and order situation in the valley. It was attended by high-ranking civil and police officers from Kashmir Division and Army and paramilitary authorities.

Sikh Party Resolution Demands Autonomous Region

BK1112132889 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 11 Dec 89

[Text] The Akali Dal-Mann says its political goal is to attain, what it calls, an autonomous region within India with self-determined political status. The party has demanded this in a resolution adopted at its meeting in Amritsar yesterday evening presided over by Mr Simranjit Singh Mann after his release and election to the Lok Sabha.

The party's spokesman, Mr Gurtej Singh, later told newsmen that the union government should not retain powers except in the areas like defense, communications, foreign affairs, and currency, as he put it.

The party has asked its new members of Parliament to file the return of expenses incurred by them during the recent elections. It described the prime minister, Mr V.P. Singh's visit to the Golden Temple as a good gesture.

Petition Challenges Deputy Premiership Legality

BK1312042589 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 12 Dec 89

[Text] The Supreme Court today issued notice to the deputy prime minister, Mr Devi Lal, on a writ petition challenging the legality and the propriety of the office held by him. A division bench comprising Mr Justice Ranganath Mishra and Mr Justice M.M. Punchi directed that the notice be returned on 9 January. Notices were also issued to the union government and the secretary to the president.

The writ petition moved by an advocate sought a writ of quo warranto to explain the legal authority under which Mr Devi Lal was holding the present office of the deputy prime minister. The petition has also sought a direction from the court to restrain Mr Devi Lal from holding his office on the ground that there is no provision for such a post in the Constitution which provides that he could have been sworn in as a minister and not as deputy prime minister.

Official on Change in Economic Planning Pattern

BK1312100289 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 13 Dec 89

[Text] The Planning Commission is to be given a constitutional status to make it a real tool for the development of the country. Three chief ministers from opposition-ruled states are also to be associated with it by rotation. This was announced by the deputy chairman of the Planning Commission, Mr Ramakrishna Hegde, at a crowded news conference in New Delhi this morning. He said the reconstituted body will be announced in a day or two.

Mr Hegde explained that the term of the chief ministers in the commission will be of 1 year. He said the number of central and centrally sponsored schemes will be brought down to the minimum. The stress will be more on panchayat [village], district, and state sponsored schemes to meet the aspirations of the people through decentralized efforts.

Replying to a question, Mr Hegde made it clear that there would be no plan holiday. The annual plan for

1990-91 will be part of the eighth [5-year social-economic development] plan and will be prepared in time. It will be formulated on the basis of the new government's views on development and planning.

Answering a query, Mr Hegde said the Planning Commission will review all the recently started schemes which are not part of the seventh plan. He said a white paper on the present economic situation will be brought out by the government soon. Another white paper will be presented on the working of the public sector.

Iran

Khamene'i Delivers Speech on Mid-Term Elections

LD1312152689 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 13 Dec 89

[Speech by Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i, leader of the Islamic revolution, to a group of people including members of the election supervisory board, inspectors of the Council of Guardians, and the executive board for Majles mid-term elections on 13 December; place not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. These days belong to the lady of the women of the world, the great lady of world history, Fatimah Zahra [prophet's daughter], may God's salutations be upon her. She is the model woman whose life, though short, is a pattern for all faithful and honorable men and women to emulate—Muslims or non-Muslims who know her. We must learn lessons from the life of that great lady.

I deem it necessary first, to offer my condolences on this sad occasion, [anniversary of Fatimah's death] and also to thank you for your presence here because you have taken the trouble of coming here from remote parts of the country. [passage omitted]

However, in that great lady's ordinary life one point is important; that is, the way she combined the life of a Muslim woman in her treatment of her husband and children with her duties as a struggling, honorable, and untiring person in confronting important political events following the death of the prophet, may God's salutation be on him and his scion. She comes to the mosque, makes a speech, takes positions, defends them, and becomes a struggler in the real sense of the term. [passage omitted] She combined three dimensions of life [housewife, Muslim, and political struggler], which signifies the shining part of the life of Fatimah Zahra, God's salutations be upon her. She did not separate these three aspects.

Some believe that the person who prays to God cannot be a political person. Some imagine that anyone who is a politician, whether a man or a woman, one who has an active political presence in the struggle for God, cannot be a housewife with the duties of a mother and a wife; or if he is a man and involved in politics then he cannot be a family man. Some believe there is incompatibility here.

According to Islam, however, these three things not only are not incompatible but they help each other to create a perfect human being. [passage omitted] You must establish ordinary ties of social life, in a healthy way. You must also becaome involved in politics, in the revolution, and involve yourselves in activities which society demands of you—in elections, in the war, and in presenting the demands of your revolutionary and national aspirations on country of world-wide level. [passage omitted]

In the framework of today's materialistic civilizations, mankind has a one-track mind. Today's mankind in the training of the ideologies ruling in the world is a human being with one dimension. Often when they are busy with the routine life, they neglect spirituality. Look at the world, perhaps you have read or heard that in the countries of the world, where they are far from spirituality, in societies where they lack spirituality, the same as many European societies, the people are engaged in life, busy with materialism, amassing wealth and comfort. They never think of spirituality. They do not remember their link with God. They do not remember prayers, worship, crying, pleading with God and heart-to-heart contact with God. They are in total complacency, which is the biggest mistake of mankind as it deprives him of charitable work.

Complacency is a big misfortune. Of course, there are people in those countries who are familiar with spirituality, albeit a few. The system is a non-spiritual and materialistic system. When they become too engaged in satisfying their needs and managing their personal life, they even become negligent in political matters. Most of the people in the developed countries are very naive politically. Their governments play with their emotions by promoting prejudice, factional prejudice, party spirit, and possibly racism and nationalism. The governments drag their people from one sort of prejudice to another to exploit them in the political arena. The masses of the people and the public are not politically aware.

But in Islam it is different. Right now in our Islamic society, our people are politically aware. The same deprived strata of the country—the same zealous tribal people of the country, the same dear ones who live in Fars Province in tents, in small hamlets, and remote areas, some of whom are present at this meeting now, and those who live in other regions of the country, the areas where I have gone and have been among these strata of our people to sit and talk to them, I have seen them in their areas, their houses and tents—they are all politically aware. They understand politics and have motives and are interested in the country's issues and have their own opinion. They understand who is confronting us in the world today. They understand what is the meaning of global arrogance and America's conspiracy. They understand why the enemy imposed the war upon us. They understand why in the war, which was

imposed upon us, the world, the arrogant world and the armed powers of the world continuously supported our enemy and many of them continue to do so. They understand this. This is called political awareness. This is one dimension of a Muslim person. [passage omitted]

These days we are awaiting the coming elections. I have two recommendations for the people who are going to have elections; that is, the cities which are going to elect their deputies in the mid-term elections. The first recommendation is that they should take part in the elections. They should not say that mid-term elections do not matter. No, the people's presence and voting itself is a political gesture. This is a task that the people should perform. Secondly, they should vote for those whom they regard as being suitable to go to the Majles, or should follow the recommendation of the individuals they trust. The Islamic Majles is the fundamental center which determines the course of the revolution. All the affairs are directed from the Islamic Majles. The Majles is a manifestation of the people's will and presence in various political and economic arenas. When the people desire something or dislike something, when they want something to happen in the economic or political arenas and those affairs which are linked to the country's destiny, the people's desire should be uttered from the mouth of their deputy, so that it becomes a law all over the country. This is the way the people can influence legislation. The Majles, therefore, is very important. Various strata of the people should strive and regard the issue of the elections and the Majles as something significant. This is a point on which our great imam always stressed and even laid stress on it in his will and testament.

Our brothers and sisters should realize this point that Almighty God, at this juncture, made this revolution an example to all the people of the world. [shouts of approval from the crowd]

Today the nations of the world see that the Iranian nation, relying on and believing in God, has been able to have her say. Blessed by our revolution and blessed by the Islam which brought about that revolution, blessed by obeying the imam, the late great leader, we were able to march on the course which was unknown to the peoples of the world. Today the revolutions which were dependent on one of the parties are now revealing themselves [to be dependent]. These were the developments which took place in those countries and yet they did not spring from the beliefs and emotions of the people; they were related to one party, one pole. Eventually, it was revealed what would be the fate of any movement which is not genuine. The genuine revolution is ours, related to a religion and Islam at that. It is a revolution which has a clear trend of thought, a clear perspective of the world and standing by the people. We continued that course; relying on God and Islam we will continue the course relying on the Koran with all its implications.

I hope God will bless you all, dear brothers and sisters, with His kindness. I deem it necessary to thank the brothers who have worked in the affair of the elections, those who made every effort and to whose efforts the orderly conduct of the election depends.

Khamene'i Sees Elections as 'Religious Duty'

LD1312213389 Tehran IRNA in English 1648 GMT 13 Dec 89

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 13, IRNA—In a meeting with a group of Majles deputies and several other visitors here today, the leader of the Islamic revolution reminded that it is a 'religious duty' for all to cast their ballots for the candidates of their choice in the by-elections for the Islamic Consultative Assembly Friday.

Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i quoted the late leader of the Islamic revolution and founder of the Islamic Republic, Imam Khomeyni, about the implications of participation at all elections as a means of safeguarding the Islamic revolution, and called for acting according to the great imam's advice as on previous occasions.

The ayatollah also dealt briefly on the contrast between the materialistic views and the Islamic outlook, and noted that in the materialistic societies human beings are treated as uni-dimensional creatures' and their lack of faith in God, makes them fall easy prey to the nationalistic, ethnic and other absurd fantasies whipped up by their governments.

The leader of the Islamic Republic acknowledged the political insight of the various strata of the Iranian society and, said the Islamic revolution had demonstrated to the world that the will of the superpowers is not the ultimate determinant in the life of the world peoples.

Among the visitors were relatives of martyrs, of war prisoners and of missing, as well as workers and staffers of Tehran refinery.

Ayatollah Yazdi Urges Participation in Elections

LD1312224889 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 13 Dec 89

[Text] In announcing the judicial organizations' readiness to cooperate with officials in holding the Majles by-elections according to law and in acting decisively with the violators [as heard], Mr Yazdi, head of the judiciary, urged people in the towns holding by-elections next Friday to participate as actively as they can in the elections.

Election Headquarters Issues Statement

NC1412073389 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 14 Dec 89

[Text] Election headquarters has issued a statement on the mid-term Majles elections that are to be held in six

voting centers tomorrow. The statement says it is not compulsory for voters to hold identity cards with a photograph when voting.

The Central News Unit cites the statement as saying that none of the members of the polling centers have the right to fill out the ballots for voters who cannot read or write.

Election headquarters says in this statement that individuals who are 15 years old and were born on or before 24 Azar 1353 [15 December 1975] can vote.

Tehran Radio Commentary on Majles Elections

NC1412094589 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0455 GMT 14 Dec 89

[Commentary prepared by the Central News Unit Research Group]

[Text] The mid-term Majles elections are to take place in six polling stations simultaneously tomorrow. The mid-term elections are taking place because the Majles election law stipulates that if more than 6 months are left to the end of the Majles session, mid-term elections in constituencies lacking a deputy should be held.

Tomorrow's elections, which are the third mid-term elections, will be held in the Tehran, Karaj, Kerman, Kashan, Kordkuy, and Kuhdasht consituencies and nine Majles deputies will be elected. Out of the nine, four will be from Tehran, and the remaining five from the other constituencies.

The mid-term elections, which are limited to a few cities, have not been coupled with extensive campaigns. It should be pointed out, however, that this does not reduce the significance and sensitivity of these elections.

Because in the Majles even one vote can be the determining one, the election of nine deputies in tomorrow's elections will have great impact on the direction to be taken by the Majles and on the compilation of laws for society. The plans and bills on the Majles agenda, namely, the first development plan, show in particular that tomorrow's elections will be conclusive. Thus, the people in those constituences where the elections are to be held have a great responsibility.

People from six election centers, including Tehran, will go to the polls tomorrow. They will not only determine their own future, but they will also affect the general trend and programs concerning the entire society in view of the role that each and every deputy elected can play in the Majles. Therefore, the significance of participating in the elections, especially for the people of Tehran, is well known because of the role that the Majles can play.

The founder of the Islamic Republic, His Eminence Imam Khomeyni, may his soul be sanctified, always emphasized the significance of elections and reviewing the necessary criteria in order to elect competent deputies, and called on the people to participate in the elections. The great leader of the revolution stated in his message on the elections for the third Majles session: The brave Iranian people should vote very carefully for deputies who are devoted to Islam and to the people, deputies who know their responsibility in serving the people and are people who have tasted the bitterness of poverty. They should be people who in word and deed are defenders of the Islam of the barefoot of the world, the Islam of the oppressed, the Islam of those who have suffered in history, the Islam of combatant scholars, the Islam of learned people who are pure at heart, and, in short, the Islam of pure Muhammedan Islam.

The voters in the six centers where the mid-term elections are to be held should, by taking into consideration the directives by the founder of the Islamic Republic, very carefully elect deputies who have a good record and have been defenders of the oppressed and deprived and who are working toward the preservation of the revolution's ideals and values. By electing competent deputies, people will not only be implementing their religious and revolutionary duty, but they will also be fulfilling the responsibility that these elections have placed on their shoulders in a good way.

TEHRAN TIMES Says U.S., UK Hindering Peace

LD1412095989 Tehran IRNA in English 0820 GMT 14 Dec 89

[Text] Tehran, Dec, 14, IRNA—The United States and Britain, two permanent members of the U.N. Security Council, are inclined to extract ransom from Iran in order to settle peace resolution 598 in the world body, said an editorial in the 'TEHRAN TIMES' English daily Thursday [14 December].

"Feelers have been sent to Iran that the problems of the stalled peace resolution and Iraqi stubbornness will be settled only after normalization of Iran's ties with these two countries," it said.

"The Security Council members are defaulting over their international responsibilities and commitments out of a greedy consideration of their self-interests and political designs," said the daily.

"Iran will not of course budge an inch in the face of such obnoxious blackmailing by these two permanent members of the Security Council. But such a decadent state of affair in a reputable international forum concerned with world security and peace should be a warning for other U.N. member countries," the daily cautioned.

Stressing that changes sweeping through all parts of the world will inevitably affect every institution particularly at the international level, the paper asked "why certain countries should enjoy this very unjust veto right in the chambers of a so-called international body?"

"This quite unlawful 'right' will have to be rescinded one day or another with the same ease with which the Berlin wall was torn down," the editorial concluded.

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KEYHAN Comments on West's Policy Toward Islam

25C0712170489 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 3 Nov 89 p 20

[P
Efolitical commentary by M. Sa'ad: "The West and Its Torts To Reduce Fundamentalism"]

[E
isxcerpts] Westerners want Iran "to denounce 'terrorrem,' respect laws and international regulations, and Infrain from what is known as Islamic fundamentalism." civ this way, Iran could regain its position among the vilized countries of the world. (!)

Fo
Wor the past few years, this has been the message of the sa(est's direct and indirect propaganda about Iran. [passge omitted]

Th
mhis matter demands careful attention and is the key to anany questions. As regards its geographical, political, itsid geopolitical situation and from the point of view of em natural resources and other considerations, Iran inijoys a special position. However, none of these factors be themselves are responsible for the present conflict faetween Iran and world arrogance. What is the missing Wctor? In our opinion, it is the same factor which has put wWestern civilization in conflict with three young girls ho wish to wear Islamic attire.

Th
anhis issue takes different forms in the field of politics tahd diplomacy. Imperialism considers it is authorized to roke hostages, abduct individuals, and indulge in terwhrism and domination. In its lexicon, only that law dehich enables it to attain its objectives has value and reeservse respect. This embodies the West's view of the st of the world. [passage omitted]

Th
anhe net result of this policy in the past, in the present, tend in the future if it continues, was, is, and will be thrrorism and so on, unless public opinion changes. In deat case, something else will take its place. Even if it is inenied a thousand times, and even if not a single pacident of assassination or abduction takes place in any part of the world by any group, the basis of the West's dcolicy with regard to Iran will remain the same, unless it [poes not have the strength to continue this policy. passage omitted]

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Soviet Envoy Briefs Va'ezi on U.S.-USSR Talks

LD1612232689 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 12 Dec 89

[T
Rtext] Mr Gudev, the Soviet ambassador to the Islamic ofepublic of Iran, met Mr Va'ezi, deputy foreign minister thf our country in charge of the United States and Europe, his afternoon.

D
reuring the meeting, the Soviet ambassador presented a U:port on the results of the recent summit between the U.S. and Soviet heads of state in Malta and said: The leaders of the two countries exchanged views on international problems, problems related to reducing strategic nuclear weapons, and the progress of detente in the world.

At the meeting the two also exchanged views on the trends in the talks on UN Security Council Resolution 598 as well as regional issues and Afghanistan.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Sends Message on Intifadah

LD1212174289 Tehran IRNA in English 1548 GMT 12 Dec 89

[Text] Beirut, Dec. 12, IRNA—Iran's President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani today reaffirmed the Islamic Republic's full-fledged support for the Palestinian Islamic uprising against the Zionist regime.

In a message to the 2nd international congress to support the Palestinian uprising inaugurated in Damascus today, the president stressed that "jihad (holy war) is the only way for the Palestinian nation to vindicate their rights and establish a Palestinian state in entire Palestine."

The message read by Iranian Ambassador to Damascus Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammad Hasan Akhtari also warned the Palestinian people against what it described as the 'worst and most dangerous plots' and called on them to strengthen their unity.

Elsewhere in his message, President Hashemi-Rafsanjani cautioned the Palestinians against the Camp David plot whose detestable and disgraceful faj he said is now more evident than ever before.

Iran-Pakistan Border Commission To Meet

LD1412114389 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 14 Dec 89

[Text] A Pakistani delegation, led by the deputy senior minister of Pakistan's Baluchestan Province, arrived in Zahedan this morning to attend the fourth session of the Iran-Pakistan joint border commission. The Central News Unit reports that during this session, which will continue in Zahedan for 3 days with representatives of the Interior and Foreign Ministries and also border authorities of Iran and Pakistan, in view of the memorandum of understanding signed during the recent trip of the interior minister to Pakistan, ways of launching a joint combat against bandits and smugglers will be reviewed.

The deputy governor of the Sistan va Baluchestan Province said in an interview, referring to the results achieved during the third session of the Iran-Pakistan joint border commission: In the fourth session of this commission, joint border issues, the fight against bandits and smugglers, setting up border posts, and organizing joint border patrols by the Iranian and Pakistani forces will be discussed.

The deputy senior minister of Pakistan's Baluchestan province said in an interview about the issues to be discussed in the fourth session of the two countries' joint border commission: During this session the contents of the previous agreements will be reviewed and discussed to clarify to what extent these agreements have been implemented. Also during this session, in addition to the joint border issues, the problems of narcotics smuggling, illegal border crossings, and issues of border transactions will be reviewed.

Further on Velayati's Views on UN Talks, 598

NC1412070489 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 14 Dec 89

[Text] Foreign Minister Velayati spoke with our colleague on the telephone and described the outcome of his meeting and talks with the UN secretary general on the Iran-Iraq peace talks.

Mr Velayati said: During this meeting we discussed the outcome of Mr Eliasson's visit and the secretary general stated he has briefed the Security Council on the outcome of Mr Eliasson's visit and on his own assessment of his report. He also clarified in his appraisal that the criterion for Mr Eliasson's mission was Paragraph 41 of the UN secretary general's official report of 26 September 1989 to the Security Council and stated Iran has accepted this paragraph.

Mr Perez de Cuellar also stated he has informed the Security Council of the positive and constructive proposal by the Islamic Republic of Iran that forces be withdrawn to international borders in tandem with the exchange of prisoners of war, as well as of an issue brought up by Iraq outside the framework of the resolution. Mr Perez de Cuellar emphasized: We have informed Iraq that our mission is clear and the framework of our activities is Resolution 598. This means that any proposal by the two sides outside the framework of Resolution 598 will not be accepted by the secretary general as a criterion. This is actually an official rejection of the committees proposed by Iraq.

Mr Velayati added: On the whole, in the meetings we held during the past 2 days with members of the Security Council and other UN members at the periphery of the apartheid conference, our evaluation of the Security Council and its reaction is that Iran's positin was considered by the majority as positive and constructive.

On the general process of the talks, the foreign minister said: Since the outset of the talks, we have constantly seen how Iraq has propounded issues outside the framework of the resolution, and this process continues. Fortunately, the world is aware of the nature of Iraq's actions, so none of its remarks are accepted. We are now hearing something new from them, and this is about the committees. This is a baseless remark and has no place in Resolution 598. As for the Islamic Republic of Iran, we have always been fully ready for a precise and correct implementation of Resolution 598, but will not surrender to any preconditions imposed by Iraq.

Mr Velayati pointed out: Iraq's only alternative is to implement the resolution and respect international agreements and the 1975 [Algiers] accord. Also, Iraq has no alternative but to accept the borders delineated in the 1975 pact—both the territorial border and the border in Arvand Riverd, known as the thalweg dividing line. These delays and refusals to act correctly only postpone the post cease-fire phases. Iraq has unfortunately not replied positively to the Islamic Republic's recent proposal calling for a simultaneous withdrawal and exchange of prisoners of war. We regret the fact that our dear prisoners of war are still being held, and the only reason for this is Iraq's refusal for a just solution to Resolution 598.

'Zolfeqar-5' Maneuvers Continue in Gulf of Oman

LD1212231789 Tehran IRNA in English 1255 GMT 12 Dec 89

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 12, IRNA—The Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran on Tuesday morning staged amphibian mock-war operations at the Gulf of Oman, liberating an island from the occupation of hypothetical enemy troops.

The operations were part of the Zolfeqar-V maneuvers which started on Saturday. They were conducted jointly by commandoes, the Basijis [mobilization] forces, reconnaissance troops, F-14 fighter planes, and warships of the Iranian Navy. As many as 80 speed boats with missiles of various types fired at targets, while they were given aerial support by the air force and by gun boats of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps mounted with Stinger missiles.

Military advisers said the various branches of the Army including the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps had demonstrated closely coordinated operations throughout the amphibian maneuvers today.

6th Stage of Operations Noted

LD1412113889 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 14 Dec 89

[Text] Our colleague Payamani reports from Bandar-e 'Abbas on the performance of the sixth stage of "Zolfeqar-5" maneuvers in the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman.

[Paymani] During the sixth stage of the large-scale "Zolfeqar-5" operations to neutralize movements by the hypothetical enemy, the transversing of vital passages and the completion of the maneuvers air and sea cover were successfully completed.

At the stage following the completion of tactical operations, which included methods to obstruct the enemy's infiltration of all waterways and communication lines, our own units engaged in performing air attacks as well as electronic warfare. Using missile sites and advanced

radar systems installed at the centers and on the coast of the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman, our units succeeded in forcing all the forces of the hypothetical enemy to abandon their principal operational centers.

Meanwhile, in the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps' [IRGC] naval maneuvers, speedboats made extensive surprise attacks against the hypothetical enemy forces. The simultaneous presence of the Iranian Army's air force fighter-bombers, as well as the Navy's helicopters, during the operations was a magnificent example of coordination and joint action by the navies of the IRGC and the Army in the development of all available equipment, as well as utilization of the region's geographic military advantages.

In the wake of these operations, the region was brought practically and fully under the control of our own forces. Then, after completing mining operations to repulse the hypothetical enemy, as well as full air defense maneuvers, the brave men of the Army and the fighters of Islam consolidated themselves at the captured positions.

Performance of the vast joint exercises of "Zolfeqar-5" continues, as planned, on the blue waters of the Persian Gulf, the Gulf of Oman, and the strategic Strait of Hormuz.

Shamkhani Comments on Maneuvers

LD1412095789 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 11 Dec 89

[Text] In an interview with reporters this morning, Rear Admiral Shamkhani, commander of the Islamic Republic of Iran's [IRI] Navy, described the completed stages of the 'Zolfeqar-5' maneuvers in the Persian Gulf as successful. While watching the operations from the deck of the command battleship, he said: These maneuvers are the biggest since the victory of the Islamic revolution.

In the same interview, Mr Ala'i, commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps [IRGC] naval force, referred to the extensive participation of units from the IRGC naval force in the 'Zolfeqar' maneuvers, saying: These maneuvers is a demonstration of the IRI's strong resolve to confront enemies and foil any possible attack.

According to our reporter, the head of the joint headquarters and the commanders of the three branches of the Iranian Army; the deputy commander in chief and the head of the IRGC General Headquarters; the ministers of defense, information, and Construction Jihad; a number of Majles deputies; the representative of the supreme jurisconsult in Hormozgan Province, the Friday imam of Bandar-e 'Abbas; and the governor general of Hormozgan were present at this special stage of the 'Zolfeqar-5' maneuvers.

Khamene'i's Speech to Culture Officials

LD1212174889 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 12 Dec 89

[Text] Dear listeners, as we informed you at the beginning of the bulletin, the members of the Supreme Council of Cultural Revolution were received today by His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, the leader of the Islamic revolution. We end this news bulletin of the Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran with details of the meeting and with the remarks by the leader of the Islamic revolution, may God keep him.

[Begin recording] [Hashemi-Rafsanjani] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. It is customary for the Supreme Council of Cultural Revolution to hold a seminar or something similar on the anniversary of its formation. We have gone one better this year and decided to come and see you so that we could benefit more from your presence. We thought it would be unlikely that you would take part in our seminar.

At the same time, we thought it would be beneficial to come and tell you about our situation, to bring to your attention the major issues which we have foreseen in the 5-year plan for universities, and to benefit further from your eminence's gracious views. In the past, your eminence has been in direct charge of the council, and you are familiar with the concerns of the council and of universities. In the current time period, instead of a strengthening of the council for current conditions, it has been somewhat weakened in that it benefits less from your views.

On the whole, in the 5-year plan the emphasis is on centers of higher education, both quantitatively and qualitatively. We hope that if we can implement it well, the situation of our human resources will have improved at the end of the 5-year plan, both from the viewpoint of numbers and of quality. This is because it has been decided that more money should be spent on graduate education and on training specialist and research forces.

From the cultural viewpoint too, it seems to us that we should pay greater attention to our universities. In any case, the centers of culture which were designed during your own presence are bearing fruit to a greater or lesser extent. They are due to become more active. It is our wish that when someone leaves the university, he should have become an independent Muslim who is free from all foreign imported ideas.

Well, we have not written all those plans; plans were drawn up before—we just made some amendments. For example, when the question of the history of science, any science, is raised in a university, historic realities must definitely...[changes thought] It is the right of Islam, the right of Muslims that their children should know about the role that Islamic civilization has played in the development of sciences.

It may be the case that even now the outcome of studying in a class of history, of science, or of sciences, is such that

it suggests to our children that they are feeding on scraps from the tables of others, whereas we know that Islam played a great role in the blossoming of Islam and in the period when, had it not been for Islam, humanity would have been deprived of many of the fruits of civilization and high ideas. Centers of culture must work effectively here. You yourself used to always express a similar anxiety and you had an interest in this matter. Now, too, if you can give us further guidance in this regard, I believe it will be beneficial for us. In any case, the gentlemen are keen, at this juncture, to benefit from your eminence's views.

[Khamene'i] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. First, I must welcome my dear, honorable brothers, to a meeting to which I had become accustomed for many years, but which had not taken place for some time. I am glad to see these gentlemen today.

I must also express praise and gratitude for this important institute, the Supreme Cultural Revolution Council, which was founded by our late imam, God bless him, both as the Cultural Revolution Headquarters and in its evolved form as the Supreme Cultural Revolution Council. The imam was the founder of and the motive force behind this institute.

I have believed, and still believe, that this supreme council could be very effective in the advancement of the country's culture. It is of great help to ministries responsible for supervising and implementing cultural programs. Thank God they are all participating in this task. I am very pleased with this structure and situation.

Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani said that the council has declined. I do not believe so. I believe that, thank God, and thanks to these gentlemen here, especially Mr Hashemi's continued presence, the council has improved, has become more innovative, and more active. I believed the same thing in the past, too. Those meetings attended by Mr Rafsanjani were efficient and decisive, and the progress made in them was clearly felt. Thank God that nowadays he attends all meetings without hesitation. I remember those days when, because of his duties, particularly concerning the war, we saw him less often at these meetings. I am glad that, thank God, he is here and the establishment is a perfect one.

In my opinion, it is important for us not to concentrate solely on those aspects of culture, such as training, education, classes, and schools in the country's Islamic cultural program, which is in the domain the Supreme Cultural Revolution Council. This culture is partly broad based. The presence of the Islamic Guidance Ministry in this set up and the familiarity of the members present in this meeting with various cultural issues testifies to the emphasis given to this point.

We and all the country's cultural officials must believe that we are under a cultural attack by our enemies. Both in the form of mixing our revolutionary culture with things which reduce its purity and effectiveness and by placing obstacles in the way of t
cialists who could manage all th training competent spe-
he country's affairs.

Without doubt the enemy has ma
the form of attracting and stea made plans for all that, in
and talents from among us. W aling outstanding brains
made plans for all Third World e know that they have
our country, considering the Isla d countries, particularly
threat to arrogance, in order to amic revolution and its
outstanding brains and talents fr prevent competent and
here. from growing or staying

They have plans, they spend mo
know. They have ways of identify oney, as you gentlemen
in various countries and then st ying outstanding talents
hood, in youth, or in adulthood. tealing them—in child-

Now we are confronted by the ani
our fundamental and cultural ene imosity and hostility of
want to prevent us from reaching emies in the world who
the sphere of general culture, th our objective, both in
activities of the people, and he minds, and cultural
schooling and education of the lab in the sphere of the
formulating a plan which matc bor force. We should be
animosity of the enemy. ches the hostility and

As far as the issue of general cult
as we are seeing in our society for ture is concerned—just
examples could be the administr instance, one of these
people's affairs are not dealt wit trative organizations—
administrative system. We keep th very quickly by the
ward and forward, delaying them, sending people back-
to them sympathetically. This can, and we do not attend
of the organs, especially those aga n be observed in some
lot of complaints. This is all due t ainst which there are a
sickness [bimari-ye farhangi]. W do a cultural defect and
are intellectually competent in ou e see individuals who
places, and in research centers, b r universities, in work
ested in creative work which may but who are less inter-
or fame to a scholar but involve not bring much money
Instead they opt for easier and mo es a lot of hard work.
is a cultural sickness. ore effortless work; this

Through what kind of people have
in the world of science been achie e these great researches
by persons who, during the period ved? In large, it seems
not famous but began a task bec of their research, were
research and knowledge, and becau cause of their love of
produce of their research. They un use of their love for the
task, with a lot of effort and labor ndertook to carry out a
turned into a great thing for a nat r, and the results have
makers have also been maliciousl tion. Of course policy-
those scientific products and resea ly taking advantage of
arch.

We cannot argue that the advant
policymakers were on account of t tages accepted by the
the object of the research. If we are the research itself and
this is due to a cultural sickness in e lacking in these, then
since this has nothing to do with us. We must cure this
universities, and such things. This the issue of schools,
tude, another type of activity, anot requires another atti-
ther organized cultural

effort, and we have to carry this out. One of the important tasks of the Supreme Council of the Cultural Revolution is to observe general culture and to find and identify those cultural sicknesses that our country suffers from today. We have to find a cure for these sicknesses, with an expert's eye, and of course, with a sympathetic and revolutionary approach, and then we have to explain these to different organs. This constitutes one of the important parts of the tasks, and it would be good if the Supreme Council for Cultural Revolution sees that it is done.

The main part—the part that is more urgent and immediate—is that which concerns the culture of the classroom, training, specialization, and developing people in the sense of educating competent persons and a competent labor force. The production of a competent labor force for managing the revolution begins in kindergartens—really even before kindergarten—right through to universities, research centers, and higher centers. Well, you gentlemen are dutybound to secure and administer this and better it.

There are defects; I know about them up to a point and the gentlemen know better than I—our primary and secondary schools face certain defects and problems. Our universities suffer from the standpoint of weakness in quality, even though shortages have been attended to somewhat in these past years. There was no escape from this; there was no other way perhaps, but the low level of quality in the universities is a thing which has been accepted by all those involved and they are aware of it. The problems of our research centers and the depression of our scholars who do not have the necessary enthusiasm for research work—this is one of the problems we have now. Teachers and lecturers in universities and schools are facing many difficulties. The motivation and enthusiasm which draws a person toward learning is linked to various things, which, to be fair, are lacking.

Financial problems have their impact. Spiritual respect has its effects; reverence for the teacher and lecturer—this same thing which is given a lot of importance in Islam, that the pupil has to respect the teacher. Well, all these have brought about certain defects. In addition to the fact that we are short of teachers—we have perhaps just a little over half the number that we need—we are short by 40 percent, perhaps, on the basis of the figures that I saw myself.

The state of teaching in schools and universities too suffers from the same defects. Of course we cannot link these defects to persons or to managers and the policymakers. Many of these defects are the outcome of our circumstances. Everyone knows this.

Well, during the last few years we were engaged in war; we suffered from shortages; we suffered an economic blockade, various economic pressures by the enemy, and so on. It is obvious that some of the problems, that is, the bulk of the problems, arise from those circumstances.

Nonetheless, what is worth bearing in mind today is this: The country's cultural machinery should make the necessary effort to resolve the shortcomings one after the other. The question of money and the budget must not be considered to be a problem for cultural work; that is to say, we must not place cultural problems and cultural shortcomings toward the bottom of the list from the viewpoint of budgetry considerations. We should rather place it near the top of the list, if not to say at the top. If we think about the matter correctly, we will see that it is to the economic advantage of the country. In other words, the country will not suffer from the fact that we direct a larger budget and greater resources toward cultural work, especially the cultural sector of education, because that in itself will create possibilities for the future of the country. People are the greatest resource of a country. If we do not have manpower, we have nothing.

I made a study some years ago of some of the countries which had a revolution years before us, and which have had some sucesses in the economic, industrial, technical, and other areas. I saw that they placed the greatest emphasis in their plans, in the early stages of the revolution, on the education of human manpower. It has been such that some of those countries are now exporting skilled and expert manpower. That is not to say that their own country is replete, or without need. No. From other perspectives, their country is not ready to absorb all those specialists. Their economic situation is not such that they can use all those specialists. They therefore export them to other countries, and it is that same human resource which has put them in a good position, despite their not having huge incomes from such things as oil from which we benefit, God be praised.

I said that with the aim of showing that if we direct the budget—either from the point of view of rials or foreign exchange—toward cultural work, we must bear in mind that although that may not solve our economic problems or run the country's economic affairs in the short term, its benefit will, nonetheless, rebound to us soon after that short-term. We do not even have to wait for the very long term.

That is one issue. Now, let us take, for example, the issue of publications and the issue of paper. We must have books, scientific publications, and so on at our disposal. Well, paper must be put at the disposal of cultural organizations so that they can do that. That is another issue. In taking stock of the country's cultural stage, we must pay attention to training manpower.

Another issue which concerns the universities—this is true of the schools as well, but the universities are more important—is the fact that a great deal of attention should be paid to intellectual life, to beliefs, and to the revolutionary and Islamic attitude of students and youths. The youth is the engine of a society. They are truly the force behind great movements in society, both positive and negative moves. If we can direct this group of educated young people who have gathered together in

a place, namely the university, toward a revolutionary and Islamic attitude, I think that the country and revolution will benefit the most from this.

In the past the universities were places where non-Islamic culture was greater than anywhere else, or at least at the same level as the worst places. This was something which was encouraged by the former regime and by former educational institutions. They made certain that this [lack of Islamic culture] was carried out in universities. They had political aims behind this issue. Today, in my view, admission to universities should be like admission to religious seminaries. In the religious seminaries one learns divine knowledge, religion, and religious obedience. In the same way, those who enter the universities—even if they are distanced from Islamic and revolutionary principles—during the 4-5 years that they spend in universities, they become acquainted with Islamic and revolutionary principles, and this will turn him into a committed person.

This is why one should attach importance to revolutionary leanings and an enthusiastic revolutionary attitude by the youth in universities. This cannot be done by talking alone. This requires certain prerequisites. Those who are employed in the universities, those who have an influence, should be among those who deeply believe in this revolution. Of course, we do not wish to say that all professors or all the experts who are made use of in the universities, whether in teaching or in research work, should be a first grade revolutionary. No, it is quite acceptable that a person has a great deal of learning, and the revolution makes use of his learning. We do not demand anything from him more than his knowledge. However, even at this level there should be no motivation for opposing the revolution in him, because if he had such a motivation, his learning would not be placed in the service of the revolution.

Therefore, in sensitive places and in positions of administering university affairs—administration in its wider meaning, which includes administering to intellectual developments, teachings and so on—those who are given a responsibility and who are given important posts should be chosen from among revolutionary individuals. Others should also not possess the motivation of opposing the revolution. I must say that anyone who possesses the motivation of opposing the revolution is harmful by his presence in the university at any level. It would be harmful even at the student level. This is something which we have experienced, and I have seen this myself in the spheres about which I could judge. A lecturer may have an ability training students in a particular sphere. However, due to his indifference or hostility toward the revolution he will not even give his time to educate the student in that sphere. In other words, he does not have the motivation to educate a revolutionary student in a revolutionary university. On the contract, this would be contrary to his motivations. This is another point.

Of course, the students are the individuals who constitute the future of this country, and we should invest in the students in all spheres, whether in the intellectual sphere, or scientific, or educational spheres, and consequently, in their material and welfare spheres. Thanks be to God, I have information that the government is busy in this respect, and they have good programs in this regard. We hope that these programs will come to fruition.

I am happy to see the Supreme Council of Cultural Revolution active, full of enthusiasm, and present in the educational construction of the country. I hope that God will bestow success on the gentlemen, and that he will also help His Excellency Mr Hashemi and our government bodies to successfully implement these sublime, constructive, and truly sacred goals which are being discussed today by the executive organizations of the country which are in the service of the revolution and Islamic aspirations. I hope that they will make the revolution proud throughout the world.

God's peace and blessings be upon you. [end recording]

Ayatollah Yazdi Receives Petition on Hejab

LD1412000289 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 11 Dec 89

[Text] The head of the judiciary, Mr Yazdi, had a meeting with families of martyrs, POW's, missing in action, combatants, and war disabled during which he stressed that all the state courts will decisively fight against the ugly phenomenon of inadequate hejab [Islamic dress code]. According to an IRNA report, in the course of this meeting a petition signed by a large number of the families of martyrs, POW's, missing in action, combatants, and war disabled was submitted to the head of the judicial power to deal decisively with those individuals who do not observe Islamic principles and dignity in their attire.

Karrubi Discusses 5-Year Plan, Islamic Dress

LD1312233889 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 12 Dec 89

[Text] In today's open session of the Majles, discussion continued on the draft bills of the first economic, social, and cultural plan of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Four more notes were debated and examined and the amendment proposals of the deputies concerning these four notes were discussed; some were ratified.

According to our reporter, in today's open session, chaired by the Majles speaker, Mr Karrubi, expressed condolences to the Muslims of the world on the occasion of the martyrdom of the honored daughter of the blessed prophet, the holy Sadiqeh Qobra Fatemeh Zahra, may God's peace be upon her, and hoped that all the Islamic ummah, notably Muslim women, would follow the conduct, behavior, sayings and simple living and struggles of

the holy Zahra, may God's peace be upon her, and observe these qualities to advance Islam and the sovereignty of God's rule.

Mr Karrubi added: About 11 years have passed since the Islamic revolution of Iran began and during this period the decadent Western culture has been eliminated from Islamic society and genuine Islamic culture now rules. Unfortunately, a group of the women in society have still not come to terms with Islamic culture. We want them to pay attention to the life and preachings of the holy Zahra, may God's peace be upon her, and not to injure the feelings of our nation so that they may not need to have laws and regulations concerning the hejab [Islamic dress code], and to refrain from the practice of not wearing the hejab properly, accept the hejab of genuine Islam, and provide value to the struggles, the self-sacrifices and the holy blood of the martyrs.

At the conclusion of his speech, the Majles speaker pointed to the anniversary of the martyrdom of the martyr Ayatollah (Dastgheib) and praised the lofty status of that blessed religious scholar.

Plan, Budget Head Zanjani Details 5-Year Plan

LD1412000989 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 12 Dec 89

[Text] Simultaneous with the Majles debate on the bill of the first 5-year plan for economic, social, and cultural development of the Islamic Republic of Iran (IRI), Mr Zanjani, the vice president and the head of the Planning and Budget Organization, was interviewed by our correspondent on specific features of this plan. I draw your attention to this interview:

[Correspondent] Mr Zanjani, as the government's representative, would you please explain general features of the bill, first on the IRI's economic, social, and cultural development plan, which is currently being debated in the Majles?

[Zanjani] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. If we were to summarize it, we can offer three objectives. The main objective of this 5-year plan is to boost the economy and production; and for this purpose, the 5-year plan has envisioned that the economic policy should be revised; that is, the pricing policies, foreign currency policies, monetary policies, and other policies in this field should be revised to enable us to create a transformation in manufacturing and the country's economy.

To boost production and the country's economy, particular attention should have been paid to training the manpower and fundamental change and to training skilled manpower. This plan has made the necessary provisions for training the manpower, increasing general literacy rate, and public culture. It is forecast that in the next 5 years we can cover almost all the people between the ages of 6 and 35. To start the economy rolling would require infastructure. Provision is made for this purpose; that is, various sectors including electricity, water, oil, gas, roads, and telecommunications should enjoy a logical growth to be able to service the infrastructure and cope with higher production. We hope the Majles, through its positive approach to the 5-year plan, would approve the plan quickly, and the government can then prepare the grounds for speedy implementation of the 5-year plan.

Official Cited on Khuzestan Reconstruction Plans

NC0812090089 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 8 Dec 89

[Text] Five more billion rials are to be allocated for the reconstruction and rennovation of war-damaged areas in Khuzestan Province. This was stated by Mr Mirzadeh, vice president for executive affairs and head of the Central Reconstruction and Construction Headquarters who has gone to Khuzestan at the head of a delegation.

He also added that in addition to the credits allocated for the reconstruction and renovation of the war-damaged areas of Khuzestan, 5 more billion rials are to be spent on the basis of an agreement signed between the Central Reconstruction and Construction Headquarters and the Construction Jihad for projects such as leveling the land, water distribution, and development projects in rural areas, such as electrification and road construction in villages in Abadan, Khorramshahr, and Dasht-e Azadegan.

Mr Mirzadeh added that the total amount of credits allocated for the reconstruction and renovation of urban and rural areas in Khuzestan Province is 42 billion rials.

Industries Minister on Plans To Complete Projects

NC0812102689 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 8 Dec 89

[Text] The minister of industries said that during the next 5 years, 7,500 semi-completed industrial projects will be completed and become operational.

IRNA reports that Minister of Industries Mr Ne'matzadeh told a group of managers of factories and production units of Khorasan Province in Mashhad that those industrial and production units that had no prospects of receiving foreign exchange at competitive rates can, from now on, use such currency for the purchase of the spare parts and raw material they need.

Stating that the amount of foreign exchange that can be used by production units is unlimited, he said: The government and the Ministry of Industries welcome and support investment and the use of the existing technical know-how and expertise in the creation and expansion of the country's industries.

The minister of industries pointed to the role of the production and industrial units in employment, reduction of prices, and pushing the country toward industrialization, saying: If we want to replace our oil income

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come from industrial production, we have no ternative but to strive to create a healthy competition in production.

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ssed: With the production units that we have out the country, while achieving high quantity lity in production, we should not only supply the c market but should also find a place for ourinternational markets.

Jannati o

on Plans for Revolution's 11th Anniversary

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902589 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1T 12 Dec 89

[Text] Th
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tion, said:

he secretary of the Council for Coordination of ublicity [CCIP], in an interview with reporters rning, explained the axis of the programs to mark the 11th anniversary of the Islamic n victory. According to our correspondent's yatollah Jannati, referring to the point that the axis of this year's programs are Imam Khomy his soul be sanctified, and the Islamic revolu-

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als in charge of organizing the 11th anniversary olution victory are striving to make certain that e of the programs is inspired by the morale of ilture. He added: We are going to mark the 11th ry of the Islamic revolution victory at a time he world's Muslims are in mourning over the f the great leader of Islamic revolution. The retary also said: Our main emphasis is on his he imam's influence on various aspects of the epublic's system; and in this year's programs, or supporting the leadership of His Eminence Khamene'i is stressed.

He called
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on the people and various state organs to e ceremonies actively, and expressed the hope 1th anniversary celebrations will be held as as possible.

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Jannati continued: On 1 February, the anniimam's return [from France], an extensive ill be held at the shrine of his holiness imam, ul be sanctified; and on 11 February, to renew of continuing the path of his holiness the allegiance with the leadership of His Emitollah Khamene'i, glorious marches will be r the country.

Ayatollah Ja
days [of da
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annati announced the names given to the 10 wn] of the 11th anniversary of the Islamic victory as follows:

—1 Februar
—2 Februa
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—3 Februar
—4 Februar
—5 Februar
—6 Februar
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y: imam, the revolution, and the people;
ry: imam, the revolution, and Friday and ional prayers;
y: imam, the revolution, and the youth;
y: imam, the revolution, and independence;
y: imam, the revolution, and reconstruction;
ry: imam, the revolution, and revolution's ns;
—7 February: imam, the revolution, spirituality and culture;
—8 February: imam, the revolution, and the devotees;
—9 February: imam, the revolution, juristconsult, and imamate;
—10 February: imam, the revolution, and the struggle against global arrogance;
—11 February: imam, the revolution, and continuation of the revolution.

*** Report on Proceedings of 19 Nov Majles Session**

90OI0063A Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 20 Nov 89 p 11

[Text] **News division. Top priority was given by Majles deputies to the bill to combine the law enforcement forces.**

In the Majles open session yesterday, presided over by the speaker of the Majles, Mr Karrubi, and continued under the chairmanship of Mr Bayat, the deputy speaker of the Majles, the general points of the bill to attach one note to the single article of the legislative bill concerning the procedures for the transfer of buildings, squares, and pavilions were ratified.

In this meeting, the general points of the legislative proposal to amend the divorce law were also ratified. Also, the general points were ratified on the establishment of the agency for exceptional education as well as those on the bill on administrative and employment regulations for members and cadre of the central headquarters of seven-member committees on the transfer and revitalization of lands.

In the open session of the Majles yesterday, the legislative bill on the gradual ban on imports and the cultivation, production, distribution, and use of tobacco was presented to the Majles by 66 deputies.

The Speech of the Deputy From Marand

In the Majles session yesterday, Mr Karim Shafe'i, the deputy of the people of Marand, spoke as the first pre-agenda speaker:

I begin my speech with greetings to the pure and victorious spirit of the imam and greetings to the blessed presence of the leader of the Islamic revolution. Without further ado, I will point out several matters which I hope will be considered.

1. The independence of a nation or a country is founded on cultural independence and independence in all areas of specialized manpower. Hence, if we want to improve the national economy and capture world markets, if we want to make proper use of the underground and aboveground resources, and if we want to benefit sufficiently from the abundant material and spiritual potential of the country, to succeed in organizing the manpower in the office and factories, and to achieve an administrative revolution, which is a serious requirement today for our society, proper value should be placed on the training of manpower, schools, universities, teachers and students,

professors and university students, and the problems of students need to be eliminated.

Here I will take the opportunity to assure students that the government, the Majles, the officials, and particularly the leader are greatly interested in academics and in students and do not consider their problems as separate from their own.

2. The Ministry of Higher Education must seriously avoid concentrating the colleges in the provincial centers and establish the colleges that are scheduled to be established in cities other than provincial capitals. This will contribute greatly to the increase in knowledge, the solution to the problems of dormitories, the elimination of the shortage of high school teachers in the provincial cities, and the prevention of the migration of people to the large urban areas.

3. I remind the government that the developmental funds for Azarbaijan Province have not been announced on time, and the construction materials have not been provided. Finally, for the reasons mentioned, work is making unduly slow progress. Ministers do not properly supervise the affairs of the province. Hopefully, if the honorable president pays serious attention, the people of the province will not become more of a target of the unkindness of the country's officials than they already are.

4. I call to the attention of the government the urgency of dealing with the Jolfa customs and trade affairs, as well as the welfare of the merchants and passengers on the Iran-Soviet border, and I announce the readiness of the people and officials to hold the exhibition stated in the Iran-Soviet agreement in Marand and Jolfa.

5. I request of the honorable Majles deputies, the government, the judicial branch, and all servants of the Islamic Republic at all levels, all professors in the universities and their students, that they use all their energy to strengthen the Majles and know that the secret of the country's independence, the secret of preserving the principles of the Islamic revolution and the Constitution lies in strengthening the Majles and preserving its status and place. The Majles must play the primary role in all the essential decisions of the country. The Majles must place great value on the Constitution and precise, successful planning, research, and investigation in all affairs of the society. The ministers must know that their legitimacy comes from the Majles, without which their positions as ministers would be meaningless. Hence, they must value and accept the rightful opinions of the Majles deputies, who represent the will of the nation.

I ask the president to personally attend to the issues of the Ministry of Roads and Transport. I must point out that in recent years the Ministry of Roads and Transport has not succeeded in resolving the problems of transportation; the owners of buses, minibuses and trucks; unloading the customs warehouses; the use of railroad resources; and organizing the flight schedules of airplanes. The consequences of these failures are readily apparent in the various economic and social sectors of the country.

7. I must remind the Ministry of Energy that despite much correspondence and many talks and reminders, no steps have yet been taken to reconstruct the electrical posts of the villages of Marand. At the present time, due to inattention and disrepair, not only is much of the investment being wasted, but the lives and property of the people are in jeopardy.

8. I must remind the honorable speaker of the Majles that the Majles needs a strong data bank. The Majles committees need strong, sympathetic consultants in all areas. The Majles needs to reorganize in order to prevent the discussion of contradictory bills and proposals and thus avoid wasting the deputies' time with minor affairs. The Majles needs a strong organization to supervise and investigate all the affairs in all parts of the country. Only in this way will the Majles be able to adequately perform its primary functions, which include legislating, determining policy, offering suggestions, supervising, calculating, and investigating.

9. I praise and thank the honorable Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani in particular for the recent actions of the government in connection with the economic organization and his attention to the need to act in accordance with a program. I must point out that even the best of actions cannot produce the slightest result if not carried out within the framework of a program.

10. I request that the government offer to the Majles the bill on combining the law enforcement forces as soon as possible.

Speech of the Deputy From Khash

The next speaker was Mr Mas'ud Hashemzehi, the deputy of the people of Khash, who made the following speech:

Greetings to the revered leader of the Islamic revolution; greetings to you, valuable colleagues, revolutionary figures and elected deputies of the Hezbollah nation; and greetings to the kind and brave people of my province and constituency.

Unemployment is a social malady that has caused a large number of the people of the Province of Sistan va Baluchestan to engage in smuggling narcotics, despite the certainty of arrest, incarceration, and severe punishment, such as long detainment, confiscation of property, and even execution.

A major international smuggler, a member of an international narcotics network, is engaged in the risky business of procuring, purchasing, and selling narcotics. He is well aware of the consequences of his actions, as evidenced in an expression common among Baluch smugglers, ("Yazaran dilu, yasaran dilu") [meaning not

known]. Consequently, a wholesaler who is a top narcotics policy maker will use any means to achieve his goals. Unfortunately, people with such a mindset are rarely trapped because they are experienced and also because they hire needy people in all regions and do not directly take part in the transporting of narcotics. Most of these people have government godfathers abroad. Even though strict laws and heavy punishments, the most severe of which is execution, reduce narcotics traffic in the short run, they will not uproot it. The answer to uprooting the manufacture of narcotics must be sought elsewhere.

From the beginning of the Islamic revolution, the fight against smuggling began and has continued, from the revolutionary executions of Ayatollah Sheykh Sadeq Khalkhali to the implementation of the present plans. But smuggling has continued. Why? Because only the symptoms are dealt with, while the cause lies not only within the country but also outside its borders. Social shortcomings and the existing problems in the province, such as the lack of proper programs to employ the oppressed people of the province and many other factors which are the result of economic conditions, result in addiction and involvement in the narcotics trade. A major factor in this situation lies across the eastern borders of the country, which is to say that narcotics enter Iran from Afghanistan and Pakistan, and as long as the problem of narcotics exists in those two countries and until the international rings there are destroyed, narcotics smuggling and addiction will exist in our country. The internal situation of Afghanistan, which has become very disorderly and chaotic as a result of the war, has provided the opportunity for that group of pseudo-mujahid feudal landlords and professional smugglers, who have penetrated the Afghan guerrilla groups. Unfortunately, some of them have even been promoted to the leadership of the guerrilla organizations. They have positioned themselves in the free areas and some of the refugee camps in the border provinces and Pakistan's Baluchestan Province. Some others, who are protected by the military personnel of Pakistan and high-ranking Pakistani officers, have supported them since the government of Ziaul Haq and continue to support them. Recently, Ziaul Haq's personal pilot, who is an Air Force major, was arrested as the leader of an international ring. Of course, had the father of Benazir Bhutto not been executed by Ziaul Haq, this major would probably not have been arrested. In Pakistani Baluchestan, there is an Afghan camp called "Gerdi Jangal," north of Dalbandan. It is said that in this camp, various Afghan groups are engaged in a thriving business of narcotics, arms, and stolen Iranian cars. Stores are full of narcotics and arms. This area is close to our border. Smuggling caravans are equipped from this camp, enter Iran, and take the substances to the central parts of Iran through the mountain and desert roads. In fact, our fighting during these few years has only served to better equip the smugglers. Previously, they moved in one or two cars and carried at most two or three light weapons. Now, they move in caravans of about 70 or 80 vehicles and are armed with RPG's, DShK's, anti-aircraft guns, grenade launchers, and long-range radios.

But inside the country, the "cause" has not been properly and thoroughly fought. Ways have not been devised to create employment for the people. The volume of work accomplished before and after the revolution in our province cannot be compared, but developmental projects and projects that will provide employment for the people of that province have not been put into effect. Perhaps one of the reasons for the backwardness of our province is that we have not had an influential agent in the government, and for this reason, we have remained oppressed. The slogans about paying attention to Sistan va Baluchestan Province have increased in number, but, sadly enough, only the slogans have increased, not the job-creating projects in the province. Unfortunately, due to a lack of piety, insight, and good intentions on the part of the directors of those projects, little attention has been paid to the indigenous forces, and directors have not realized that the goal of the government in carrying out job-creating projects in this oppressed province is more political than economic. Large-scale unemployment in a province breeds poverty. Unemployment causes disorder in the region. Employing one person in Sistan va Baluchestan Province means reducing the number of victims of addiction by one person. It means reducing one person from the ranks of the narcotics caravan.

But it has been observed that at times some of the directors of the factories in Sistan va Baluchestan Province create such a discriminatory distance between natives and non-natives that the people do not consider the developmental projects to be their own.

For example, the director of a factory issued the following directive:

All non-native employees of the company (those not born in Sistan va Baluchestan) who are employed on location at the factory or in the Zahedan office will be given extra bonus pay to help defray their living expenses and as compensation for the bad climate, up to a maximum of 150 percent of their salary and benefits. On the basis of this very document, a Tehran engineer is paid 1,200,000 rials, which along with the housing, car, and so-called pension makes a salary of 1,500,000 rials, and a Tehran laborer is paid a salary of 195,000 rials, while a native engineer is paid only 197,750 rials.

In all fairness, he has realized what oppression means. He has realized that oppression means that the slogan belongs to the native people while the bread and butter belongs to the gentlemen who come from elsewhere.

But, as soon as we raised the issue with the related minister, he immediately expressed his concern about placing value on and using indigenous forces, except when there is a need to send for technical and specialized forces, the basis, therefore, being the training of indigenous forces in order to increase output. The minister immediately issued the necessary instructions to eliminate the existing shortcomings, and in this regard, I

express the appreciation and thanks of myself and the people of my constituency to the minister.

I declare from this sacred podium of the Majles that Sistan va Baluchestan Province is not underprivileged but oppressed. The proof of our oppression is that early this year, when Zabol suffered a flood and thousands of men and women lost their homes, we had two headquarters: first, the headquarters for the flood victims of Sistan, and second, the headquarters for the draught victims of Sistan.

The proof of our oppression is that while we are next to the Gulf of Oman, we have no water to drink, and people perform their religious ablutions with dust instead of water. Our cities have no drinking water. Zahedan, the center of the province; the city of Khash, which has the best climate in the province and the worst water; and Bandar-e Chahbahar are proof of our oppression, because we have an annual rainfall of nearly 12 billion cubic meters of flood water in a province with the lowest amount of rainfall. If we were to divide this water among the population, everyone would receive an average of 10,000 cubic meters of water. But what happens is that we have floods for up to a month after the rains and 11 months of drought. No comprehensive program has been devised to create dams, flood barriers, and canals in a province this size, and, unfortunately, the flood waters bring nothing but destruction for us.

We are oppressed, and proof of our oppression is that none of the potential of our province has been utilized, and all our potential in terms of sea, mountains, land, water, and soil remains hidden.

We are oppressed, and proof of our oppression is revealed in an examination of education in this province, comparing the percentage of addicts to that of those who need education but do not have the resources to become literate. And what amount of material and spiritual support and support in terms of provisions and transportation has been provided by the Department of Education of the Province in the past few years?

We are oppressed, and proof of our oppression is evident in the area of health and treatment: Witness the percentage of increase in infectious diseases every year compared to previous years.

We are oppressed, and proof of our oppression is evident in the labor and social affairs sector, in the percentage of persons employed, the percentage added to our unemployment rolls when the statistics for this year are compared to that of previous years.

We are oppressed, and proof of our oppression is in the technical engineering university of Baluchestan, in which only 3 percent of the 5,000 students are native to the area, whereas prior to the revolution, 60 percent of such students were natives. Most of the specialized technical forces of the university have been absorbed by the provincial offices. We request of Mr Mo'in and the cultural revolution council that the number of native students of this university be increased to 40 percent of the capacity of the university, waiving the entrance examination requirements, to enable the oppressed to achieve what is rightfully theirs. Also, in order to raise the quality of students who want to come to the university in terms of science, let us establish a 24-hour high school affiliated with the university to enable the potential students of the provincial cities to complete the last 3 years of high school.

We are oppressed, and proof of our oppression can be seen in the Plan and Budget Organization of our province and its indexes.

Province of Sistan va Baluchestan/Nation

Ratio of literacy in the population 6 years and above	36	62
Educational outreach to population 6 to 10 years of age	47	82
Educational outreach to population 11 to 14 years of age	48	72
Ratio of population to physicians	5,275	2,763
Ratio of population to dentists	68,261	10,029
Ratio of population to pharmacologists	116,045	13,927
Existing roads per 100 square km	28%	1.02%
Existing secondary roads per 100 square km	95%	2.18%
Existing rural roads per 100 square km	1.19	2.03
Total existing roads per 100 square km	5.75	8.45

As for the population and economic indexes:

Rate of population growth within the past 10 years	6.2	3.9
Ratio of unemployed to population 10 years of age and older	20	14.4
Percentage of families with electricity	51.77	83.88
Percentage of families with water	44.4	73.7
Percentage of families with telephone	6.6	10.86
Per capita income	115,600 rials	265,000 rials
Average annual wages and salaries	621,000 rials	1,076,000 rials

These are all proof of our oppression. And in conclusion:

Honorable brother Mr Zangeneh, honorable minister of energy, in my speech on 25/5/68 [16 August 1989], I issued a reminder concerning drinking water for the people of Khash. Unfortunately, you have ignored the reminders. God willing, you will answer to the people of Khash in the next world concerning the reminder.

Again I remind you that the people of Khash have no drinking water. At the present, the people only need 20 km of pipes to eliminate the urgent and horrible problem of drinking water from faucets.

A reminder to Mr Foruzesh, honorable minister of the Construction Jihad:

Mr Foruzesh, most of the rural roads of my constituency, the city of Khush and especially the suburbs of Zahedan, have not been even touched in terms of repairs for 6 months. Because they do not have a road grader, the crusade of the province is sitting idly by. Please make a decision concerning the rural roads. Honorable brother, President Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the people of our province are devoted to you. You witnessed that in the presidential elections, in voting for you, Chahbahar, with a 140 percent increase; Saravan, with a 90 percent increase; Khush, with a 90 percent increase; and other cities of the province as well showed an increase in votes compared to other presidential elections.

All this is due to their love and devotion to you.

They are thus far very happy with your actions, but still they have their hopes set on you to eliminate deprivation and oppression from this province. The people of our province are impatiently waiting to see you in the Province of Sistan va Baluchestan, so that you can show your kindness to these devotees of yours. Hopefully, with Your Excellency's kind attention and appointment of competent and creative managers, you will eliminate deprivation from this oppressed province.

Majles Discussions

Following the pre-agenda speeches and the reading of the memos of the deputies to the executive officials of the country, the Majles went into session. First, the discussion concerning one urgent aspect of the bill to combine the enforcement forces, offered to the Majles as a double urgency motion by the government, began. After the explanations by the representative of the government, one urgent aspect of it was put to a vote and ratified.

Then a discussion continued on the bill to attach one note to the single article of the legislative bill concerning the procedure to transfer places, squares, and pavilions in order to facilitate the production and distribution of fruit, vegetables, and agricultural products ratified on 5/10/1358 [26 December 1979], and its general points were ratified.

According to this attached note, city halls of other cities are also subject to the law on procedures for transfering buildings, squares, and pavilions.

Then the legislative bill to amend the divorce law was offered for the first round of discussions, and its general points were ratified.

According to the single article of this proposal, couples intending to separate or divorce must register their petition and have their differences studied by a special civil court. If the differences between the parties are resolved through the court, the court shall issue a certificate of irreconcilability, to be sent to the official divorce bureau. In this session, the bill on the establishment of the exceptional education agency, as well as the bill on the administrative and employment regulations for the members and cadre of the central quarters of the seven-member committees on the transfer and revitalization of lands, was offered for the first round of discussions, and the general points of each of the above bills were ratified by the deputies.

According to our correspondent's report, discussions concerning the proposal to encourage retired teachers to continue cooperating with the Ministry of Education will be addressed for the second round of discussions in the next session of the Majles.

At the end of the open session of the Majles yesterday, the legislative proposal on the gradual ban on the importation and cultivation of tobacco and the production, distribution, and use of tobacco was presented to the Majles.

The open session of the Majles adjourned at 12 o'clock yesterday. The Majles will hold an open session tomorrow morning.

* RESALAT Reports on 22 Nov Majles Session

90OI0068A Tehran RESALAT in Persian 23 Nov 89 p 5

[Excerpt] Legal and Majles Department—Yesterday morning the Majles convened under the chairmanship of Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Karrubi.

During this session, after readings of verses from the holy Qoran, Mr Musavi, Izeh deputy, spoke as the only pre-agenda speaker. Then the memos from the deputies to the nation's executive officials were read, and the Majles began its agenda.

According to RESALAT's parliamentary correspondent, the first item on the agenda was continued consideration of the report from the Second Council on the proposal to encourage retired teachers to continue working with the Ministry of Education and Training, which was approved by the deputies.

The second item on the agenda was the report from the Second Council on the bill on collecting fees for services by the Ministry of Roads and Transport, which was approved.

The third item on the agenda was the report from the First Council for the Labor and Social Affairs Commission concerning the rejection of the bill to grant exemptions to veterans employed in government and non-government production, service, and industrial units, which was approved by the Majles.

The fourth item on the agenda was the double-urgency motion to reduce credits for the Majles system of housing construction, which was approved.

The final agenda item was the double-urgency motion to amend Paragraph D of Note 51 of the National Budget

Law of 1368 [21 March 1989-20 March 1990]. Due to the lack of time, continued consideration of this proposal was postponed to the next session.

At the conclusion of the session, a letter was read from 141 deputies concerning the Iraqi regime's position on Resolution 598 and the 1975 treaty, and a letter signed by 138 people addressed to the president was read concerning limited partnership companies.

Printed for your consideration below are the remarks of Mr Musavi (the only pre-agenda speaker), details of the proceedings, memos from the deputies to the nation's executive officials, and the letters from the deputies.

The only pre-agenda speaker for yesterday's public Majles session was Mr Musavi, Izeh deputy. During his talk, he discussed the matter of planning in the Decade of Reconstruction. He said: One of the important issues for us today in the Decade of Reconstruction is planning. The founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran drew the broad and basic outlines, and it is only through proper planning to carry out the fundamental tasks that the economy, industry, agriculture, education and training, and the people's material and spiritual affairs can be put in order. Today, we are witness to very advanced technology in the world, and the imperialist world, using science and knowledge and precise planning, has become stronger, and is putting more pressure than ever on the Third World nations. It is time for the esteemed government of Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani to make basic changes through precise planning in executive affairs, the economy, and in production so that effective steps will be taken for the development of industry and agriculture and, ultimately, in the direction of self-sufficiency. The possibility of this taking place is very great and hopeful, even in the short run, in a nation such as Iran, with its vast and productive lands and its rich mineral resources such as oil, gas, and other things. Just in this short time, the government of Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani has brought about basic changes and in good time, and there is hope for further successes in the not-too-distant future. Especially now when the nation's five-year plan will come before the Majles soon, I believe that even with the existing resources it will be possible to bring out the best in the country by making use of the worthy and passionate personnel.

Continuing, he added: In my view, this is the best time to implement policies for the nation. Definitely, if we do not have systematic planning and clear policies to be followed by all the executive officials and the nation's insiders, we will be grappling with confusion and differences of opinion and consequently there will be a problem. Many advanced nations and nations in the process of advancing, which in the past were backward in all dimensions, had much worse economies than ours at that time. Studying the matter, we see that with planning and clear policies they have today achieved many successes. Two things have led to these successes: first, planning, and second, the use of worthy and capable managers.

Mr Musavi then discussed the importance of Khuzestan Province. He said: I do not think that the respected officials have given enough attention to the rights of the people of Khuzestan, and it is no secret to anyone that Khuzestan has special importance in every important dimension, including the economy and defense. I therefore call upon the government of Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani to look with special favor on Khuzestan.

Continuing his remarks, the speaker discussed the matter of propaganda, and he called upon the officials to give special attention to propaganda.

The Izeh deputy also discussed the way officials and government workers deal with the people. He said: Not only do some officials and government workers fail to solve the problems of the people coming to them in the offices, but they even greet the people with paper-shuffling, rudeness, and even insults. The situation has been better for some time and it is expected that the necessary orders will be given to the people dealing with the public concerning the observance of Islamic ethics.

Concerning administrative corruption, he said: The next subject is administrative corruption, and there must be an administrative revolution. With all the subject's importance and the necessary memos, serious steps have yet to be taken and ultimately corruption has been created, and I hope the respected government will also give attention to this important matter.

Concerning the problems of the Khuzestan tribesmen, Mr Musavi added: The tribes of the Khuzestan area, and especially the Municipality of Izeh, are faced with many problems, from roads, transportation facilities during the seasonal movements of the tribes and herds, feed, medicine, food, and fuel. I deem it necessary to thank the very dear and respected supervisor of the Khuzestan Tribes Organization, Mr Fa'al, who has fulfilled his obligation to the tribes, which His Holiness the imam said are the stock of the revolution, with regard to an issue that has arisen recently in the Municipality of Izeh and has been misused by our enemies, foreigners and foreign radio stations who have made statements on the subject. The matter that has arisen there, although bitter and unacceptable, was uncalled for. Neither our people nor the sacred Islamic Revolutionary Komiteh, which has rendered great services and given many martyrs in this connection, are happy about this situation. Therefore, the foreign radio stations have been telling lies again over their loudspeakers, as always. The heroic and brave people have loved and cared about Islam and the pure imams (peace be upon them) throughout history. Especially with regard to his holiness the imam and the Islamic nation, the people of Izeh came to Qom in their Bakhtiari traditional clothing to visit the imam's grave. The respected speaker of the Majles, His Excellency Mr

Karrubi, is fully aware of this. During the war also they played the best part and presented the best of their children to Islam and this divine government. Concerning the death of the founder of the Islamic Republic, they held rites and gave eulogies of their own throughout the 40-day mourning period. They organized a great caravan that went to visit the pure grave of the imam, and they expressed their allegiance to the leader of the revolution, His Holiness Ayatollah Khamene'i. They have likewise met with His Holiness Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani and declared their willingness to take on any kind of courageous mission. Therefore, what has been said about the martyr-nurturing people of Izeh by the foreign radio stations is merely baseless lies. I say from the tribune of the Majles to the nation's officials, especially the great leader, that the people of Izeh are among this nation's most loyal and faithful to the revolution and the Islamic Republic. It is appropriate for the respected executive officials of the province and the municipality to give more credit to the people and solve their problems. I thank whole-heartedly His Holiness Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Sane'i for the interest he has taken in the Izeh area, especially with regard to cultural matters. I thank the respected minister of roads and transport and the minister of agriculture, who visited the area. I ask the respected ministers of construction jihad and health, treatment, and medical education to visit the area soon, and to undertake resolving the problems of the people. I also thank the respected minister of petroleum who has recently given attention to that area. To the Ministry of the Interior with regard to the problems and issues in the Municipality of Izeh, population growth and excess, they have done preliminary work on the question of making a municipality of Bagh-e Malek Jan, and I hope measures will be taken in this regard quickly and solve this problem.

Details of the Proceedings

The first item on the agenda is continued consideration of the report from the Second Council on the proposal to encourage retired teachers to continue working with the Ministry of Education and Training.

Article 1: The Ministry of Education and Training is authorized to continue to employ persons classified in the nation's teaching positions by the Teacher Classification Project after they have served 30 years (do to the need and stipulation of that ministry) or affiliated units in teaching positions or teaching centers or guidance and training for newly-hired colleagues or in management or planning affairs and to refrain from asking for their retirement and to invite them to continue service in the Ministry of Education and Training with triple the bonus wages.

Note 1: Those covered under this law will be required to spend 18 hours per week teaching and working.
Note 2: Retirement deductions will not be taken from their wages and benefits, and taxes will be collected only on their positive bonus wages.
Note 3: The increase in bonus wages provided by this law will not be affected by the note of Article 38 of the National Employment Law.
Note 4: Those persons classified in the nation's teaching positions by the Teacher Classification Project who have had the honor of retiring prior to the enactment of this law are entitled to its benefits if they are invited back to work by the Ministry of Education and Training.
Note 5: Implementation of this law is mandatory for people with bachelor's degrees and higher employed in the grade schools, industrial schools, centers for training ordinary, technical, and professional teachers at teacher's colleges, on-the-job training, staff and executive offices and institutes, if they wish to serve.
Note 6: Executive guidelines will be prepared within 2 months after it is enacted by the Ministry of Education and Training, the Plan and Budget Organization, and the Administrative and Employment Organization.

Article 1 and the notes for the above proposal were approved by the deputies after a vote.

Second Agenda Item

The second item on the agenda was the report from the Second Council of the Housing and Municipal Affairs Commission on the bill on collecting fees for services by the Ministry of Roads and Transport.

Article 1: The Ministry of Roads and Transport is authorized, as of the date of this law's enactment, to provide services as described below:
1 - Issue authorizations to pass and carry special loads (traffic and volume).
2 - Issue permits to proceed with heavy freight loads.
3 - Issue renewals of licenses to operate for freight companies and institutions.
4 - Issue permits for international travel.
5 - Issue drivers work permits.
6 - Provide the extra services in accordance with tariffs approved by the Council of Ministers according to the proposal from the National Supreme Joint Transportation Council and collect the funds from applicants and deposit them in treasury accounts.

Note 1: The Ministry of Roads and Transport is authorized to withdraw the equivalent of 50 percent of the deposited funds to a maximum of 500 million rials which are allocated in the annual budget for the purpose of improving the road freight shipping services in accordance with the guidelines to be approved by the Council of Ministers on the proposal of the National Supreme Joint Transportation Council. The expenditure of the aforementioned credit will be based on the Non-Public Accounts Credit Expenditures Law enacted in 1364 [21 March 1985-20 March 1986] and the executive guidelines related to it.
Note 2: The Ministry of Roads and Transport must send a report on the costs of the implementable projects under the credit allocated above every 6 months to the Majles

com
Roa missions of Housing and Urban Construction,
Com ds and Transportation, and the Plan and Budget
nmission.
Arti
appricle 1 above and the notes were put to a vote and
roved.

Third Agenda Item

The
repo third item on yesterday's Majles agenda was the
Affa ort from the First Council for the Labor and Social
to gairs Commission concerning the rejection of the bill
men rant exemptions to veterans employed in govern-
indu t and non-government production, service and
expe strial units. After commentary from the commission
Ha'e rt, deputies Movahedi Saveji, Rowhani-Niya, and
bill eri-Zadeh spoke against rejection and then the entire
was put to a vote and enacted.

Fourth Agenda Item

The
moti fourth item on the agenda was the double-urgency
Maj ion to reduce credits for the Islamic Consultative
les system of housing construction.
With
the sh regard to this proposal, Mr Akrami spoke as one of
Mov signatories, and then Deputies Sheybani, Khalkhali,
and vahedi-Saveji, and Yusef-Pur spoke in opposition
spok Deputies Faregh, 'Abedi, Shafe'i, and Sadeqiani
ke in support.
Artic
the cle 1: An amount of 220 million rials of the credit of
tiona development project for building Majles organiza-
adde al houses in classification number 308023557 will be
Marc d to the ceiling for the current budget of 1368 [21
rch 1989-20 March 1990].
After
appr r a vote, Article 1 above was put to a vote and
roved.

Final Agenda Item

The f
moti fifth and final agenda item was the double-urgency
Nati ion to amend Paragraph D of Note 51 of the
Marc ional Budget Law of 1368 [21 March 1989 - 20
appr ch 1990], whose double-urgency status had been
sessi roved in the 8/30/1368 [21 November 1989] Majles
sion.
Conc
signa cerning this proposal, Mr Taha spoke as one of the
side natories, but due to the lack of time continued con-
eration of the bill was postponed to the next session.
The
next Majles session was set for next Thursday.

Deputies' Letter to the President on Limited Partnership Companies

To Y
Hojj Your Excellency the Great Brother Your Holiness
resp at ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani,
of Ir ected and beloved president of the Islamic Republic
lency ran, peace be upon you. Respectfully, as Your Excel-
nom y knows, one of the important factors in the eco-
dama nic and social disarray that is doing irreparable
nage to the Islamic government and the exalted aims of the Islamic revolution in the areas of Islamic justice, social justice, and growth and development of the economy is the daily increasing and active presence of gold-diggers, profiteers, and their quickly-earned riches. The same people who plundered the greatest part of wealth and investments of the people overnight during the imposed war in the shelter of special, unstable, and abnormal circumstances at the price of labor and toil for most of the people, by abusing the existing situation in the hoarding of wealth and receiving illegal and impure income and who made several years' progress overnight and who brought most of the pressure on the deprived group of people, the oppressed classes of society, and especially the toiling workers, the zealous farmers, and the noble government workers. This group of opportunist gold diggers, who have brought the greatest amount of wealth to hand with the least amount of trouble, have been presented to the public repeatedly by Your Excellency and other officials as economic terrorists and black bands, unfortunately we now see some of these Godless brokers and hoarders of wealth, citing the Islamic rule of limitation, are forming instutitions called "limited partnership companies", and by printing announcements in the nation's official newspapers and promising to pay profits several times greater than the usual rates in the nation's banking system, they have amassed the loose currency and savings of the people and have guided this capital away from national investment and diverted it to the commercial, brokerage, hoarding, and price-gouging sector. Without a doubt, if the activities of companies of this kind expand and continue, the government's money, finances, and economic decisions and policy-making will be in disarray and will consequently end in economic confusion, imposition, inflation, and more shortages in society and will lead the government's noble workers and staff to administrative corruption, and the effects of this will definitely have unavoidable consequences in cultural and social affairs and political and economic matters. Moreover, too often there is the possibility that these Godless profiteers and professional economic terrorists have collected the investments of the people and depositors and transferred them abroad, and this creates an atmosphere of social insecurity and discomfort. Therefore, in light of the above matters and for the purpose of strengthening the nation's monetary and banking system and preventing inflation, high expenses and false shortages in society, the following suggestions are made and await the serious and necessary measures to be taken from that respected government.

1—The government must make the necessary arrangements to prevent the expenditure of the people's deposits outside the country by the aforementioned disreputable companies.

2—The government will prevent the official charters of these companies and institutions and similar organizations from being recorded at official and legal agencies.

3—The government will take the necessary measures to weed out these companies.

4—The government will prevent the publication of advertisements and the publication of propaganda pertaining to institutions and companies of this kind.

At the conclusion of yesterday's public Majles session, two letters signed by the majority of the Majles deputies were read, which are printed below. [passage omitted]

Pakistan

5 Killed in Hyderabad; Paramilitary Troops Sent

BK1312153289 Hong Kong AFP in English 1509 GMT 13 Dec 89

[Text] Karachi, Dec 13 (AFP)—Paramilitary troops were called out as five people were killed and 15 injured in renewed ethnic violence Wednesday in Hyderabad, 150 kilometers (100 miles) north of here, hospital sources said.

Four people were killed in different parts of the city by unidentified gunmen who fired indiscriminately on passers-by, they said. Tension had mounted after the killing of a rickshaw driver by an unknown gunman Tuesday, they said.

According to witnesses a school bus was hijacked by eight "terrorists" Tuesday who later sprayed bullets at passers-by. The bus was released later, they said.

Paramilitary rangers have taken up positions in the sensitve area to prevent a further escalation of the violence.

Some 300 people were killed in Hyderabad and Karachi in similar violence in October and November last year.

Army Builds Remote-Controlled Surveillance Plane

BK1312034389 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 0300 GMT 13 Dec 89

[Text] Pakistan has indigenously produced a pilotless remote-controlled aircraft for surveillance in the battlefield. The aircraft is equipped with most sensitive infrared cameras. This was stated by the general officer commanding the Army Air Defense, Major General Agha Masood Hasan, during a briefing in Sargodha yesterday. The briefing was attended by the chief of the Army Staff, General Mirza Aslam Beg, and other senior Army and Air Force officers. They also witnessed the successful demonstration of the aircraft.

Maj Gen Agha Masood Hasan said the aircraft has been built within a period of 3 months with the help of Army engineers. It is capable of providing effective surveillance over the battlefield up to 30 km. He said a much improved version with a wider range would be produced shortly. The aircraft costs one-tenth of the price in the world market.

Sri Lanka

LTTE Kills 50 Members of Tamil National Army

BK1312121189 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 1149 GMT 13 Dec 89

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, Dec 13 (LANKAPUVATH)—About 50 cadres of the illegal Tamil National Army [TNA], armed and trained by the IPKF [Indian Peacekeeping Force], were reported killed as the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] routed the TNA in a battle early this morning in the eastern town of Batticaloa.

Official sources told LANKAPUVATH that 70 percent of the remaining EPRLF [Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front], ENDLF [Eelam National Democratic Liberation Front] and TELO [Tamil Eelam Liberation Organization] cadres who constitute the TNA had surrendered with their weapons while the others had fled.

The sources said the LTTE had surrounded Batticaloa town last night and moved in at dawn. After some fierce fighting, the TNA had capitulated.

Meanwhile, the wife and 14 year old son of EPRLF member of parliament, Sam Tambimuttu, were reported abducted from their home at Batticaloa this morning. The two militants who kidnapped Batticaloa's deputy municipal commissioner, N. Karthigesu, yesterday afternoon have been identified as TELO and PLOTE [People's Liberation Organization of Tamil Eelam] cadres. A ransom of 25,000 rupees has been demanded for his release.

250 Die in Rival Tamil Clashes

BK1412082489 Hong Kong AFP in English 0745 GMT 14 Dec 89

[Excerpt] New Delhi, Dec 14 (AFP)—Nearly 250 people, mostly civilians, have been killed in heavy street fighting between rival Tamil guerrillas in an eastern Sri Lankan town, a Tamil group governing the region said Thursday [14 December]. The Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front (EPRLF) added that the town of Batticaloa had fallen to an opposing group and Sri Lankan security forces after three days of pitched street battles.

An EPRLF spokesman said the dead included more than 100 civilians, 63 guerrillas of the EPRLF and its allies, and 80 Sri Lankan security personnel as well as members of the rival Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE). "The fighting has subsided though it is still reportedly going on," the spokesman said by telephone from the southern Indian city of Madras where Sri Lankan Tamil groups maintain offices.

He added that cadres of the EPRLF and its allies, the Eelam National Democratic Liberation Front (ENDLF) and the Tamil Eelam Liberation Organisation (TELO), had made "tactical withdrawals" from coastal Batticaloa

town. Other Tamil sources reached in Madras said that the situation in Batticaloa District, which Indian troops deployed in Sri Lanka since mid-1987 vacated late last month, was tense. They gave no details.

The EPRLF spokesman reiterated that the heavily-armed LTTE fighters were actively backed by Sri Lankan security forces including the Navy and Air Force, and vowed that his group would fight on. "The LTTE did not fight alone, they can't fight alone," he said. "The Sri Lankans were fully behind them till late in the night yesterday, bombarding our positions from the sea and sky."

"But as long as the LTTE tries to annihilate us by force, we will resist," he added. "There will be no peace in the (Sri Lankan) Northeast till the Tigers come to an understanding with us."

The EPRLF, which administers Sri Lanka's Tamil northeast after winning elections boycotted by the LTTE in November last year, is considered pro-India and Colombo has accused it of raising an illegal "Tamil National Army" with the assistance of the Indian Army.

News reports from Colombo Wednesday put the death toll in the Batticaloa fighting at more than 100. Sri Lankan officials have denied the involvement of government troops in the LTTE attacks.

According to Tamil sources, mortars, rocket launchers, machine guns and automatic rifles were used by both sides in Batticaloa. [passage omitted]

Wijeratne Comments on TNA Attack

BK1412112789 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 1009 GMT 14 Dec 89

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, Dec 14 (LANKAPUVATH)—Sri Lankan minister of foreign affairs and minister of state for defence, Ranjan Wijeratne, today bared a treacherous plan by the illegal Tamil National Army (TNA) to carry out acts of provocation in order to cause the government to retaliate and then rush refugees from the north and east to India claiming that they could not live there because of harassment by Sri Lanka's security forces and police.

Mr. Wijeratne, who was addressing the media at the weekly Cabinet news briefing in Colombo this morning, said that when he visited Talaimannar last Sunday morning the situation was peaceful. However in the night the TNA attacked the Talaimannar Camp with mortars and rockets. This was a clear provocation. He said there was no reason for the TNA, who were holed up in the village of Thirumalai, to attack the security forces camp.

The minister of foreign affairs and minister of state for defence said he had complained to the commander, that an IPKF [Indian Peacekeeping Force] helicopter had landed at Thirumalai and given the illegal forces, the so-called TNA, supplies. He said "we don't know whether it is bread. We don't know whether it is arms." He said the IPKF should never have come to Mannar. Mr. Wijeratne said the IPKF was acting mischievously. He said he had conveyed earlier incidents of this nature to the Indian prime minister along with photographs and manuals.

Replying to a question on the situation in Batticaloa, he said that the TNA had been attacking and bombarding the Batticaloa police station with rocket propelled grenades and mortars. He said that police had acted with great restraint.

Mr. Wijeratne said that while the TNA was attacking the police station, the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] had come from behind and attacked the TNA. He said that according to latest reports the TNA was battling the LTTE, which was unfortunate. If the Sri Lankan security forces were to move in at this stage it would result in a massacre. If we confront them we will have to shoot and they will be killed and that's the thing they (TNA) want. Mr. Wijeratne appealed to all concerned to withdraw, disarm and bring about normalcy. We do not want to confront any militant group. Our president has been acting with tremendous restraint, Mr. Wijeratne said.

He said that the wife and son of EPRLF [Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front] Member of Parliament Sam Tambimuttu, who were abducted yesterday, were being released this morning.

Referring to the withdrawal of the IPKF he said that India appeared to be trying to keep the 31st December deadline. India had a problem of obtaining enough ships to move their men and equipment back. He said that 400 vehicles had moved out of Vavuniya in a convoy.

The Indian high commissioner in Sri Lanka had told him yesterday that they had received instructions to move out of the central region which comprises Mannar, Vavuniya, Mullaitivu and Kilinochchi. The IPKF has moved out of Mannar, and now we have heard that they are moving out of Vavuniya.

The minister said 15 truckloads of TNA cadres had been seen entering Vavuniya Tuesday. He appealed to them to hand over their arms to the police and not to resort to violence.

In reply to a question Mr. Wijeratne said he was very happy with the talks he had with the Indian Government in New Delhi last week.

With regards the visit of Pakistan foreign minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, it had been clearly indicated to him that Sri Lanka was quite prepared to host the SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] summit in April 1990, provided there were no foreign troops in the country.

Turning to the situation in the south, Mr. Wijeratne said that there had been a upsurge of subversive activity in certain areas, the second eleven of the JVP [Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna—People's Liberation Front] were now hitting all round the wicket but were soon going to be hit wicket. Troops have been moved into the more vulnerable areas to deal severely with the subversives.

13 Die in 'Subversives' Attack on Official's Home

BK1312101489 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 0917 GMT 13 Dec 89

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, Dec 13 (LANKAPUVATH)—Subversives killed 13 persons when they attacked the home of a United Socialist Allia councillor last night at Passara in nce (USA) provincial the Uva Province.

Security sources told LANKAPU about 30 armed subversives had dence of Provincial Councillor K. kumbura, Passara, about 8 p.m. fire at the inmates killing 13 of th cillor Leelaratne was not at hom attack. Among the dead were tw brothers, three national auxiliary eight youth from the village of Ba guarding the house. VATH that a gang of stormed into the resi- Leelaratne, at Badal- last night and opened em. Provincial Coun- e at the time of the o of the councillor's reserve personnel and dalkumbura who were

After the mass slaying, the killers h of the 13 dead and dying into the h had thrown the bodies house and set fire to it.